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モンスター文庫

Isekai Shoukan wa Nidome Desu

– A Second Time for an Otherworld Summoning –

- Volume 2 - To the Beastmen Country

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[Scarletmadness]

40原 illustration
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異世界召喚 一度目

でも今は



モンスター文庫



勇者セツ
須崎 雪

海神
リヴァイア

あんまり泣かないでお姉ちゃん

よかったです
……本当に……うっっ



妹
獣人
ミネコ

獣人
シロネ

姉



これ以上俺の仲間
手を出すようなら、
お前をこの手で**殺す**



王の立場も大変ね

ふふ……

まあ心配事は絶えないな

魔王
デザストル。
セレーノ



ふにゃあ〜
もっとお……

獣王の娘
ロア・レオネール



Chapter 28

To The Beastmen continent

--Beastmen continent... It is a continent where mainly beastmen live in, races that are like a unity of humans and animals. These beastmen possess beastlike ferociousness and instinct.

Their physical strength are high compared to humans and demons, but in exchange the amount of magic power within them is not so much.

Instead of saying in exchange, it is a handicap equivalent to being unable to use the convenience called magic, or having difficulty in using them.

In order to compensate for such handicap, the beastmen possess skills that is characteristic to their race.

In the case of felines, they can acquire skills which would strengthen their body's flexibility, leg strength, nails etc. As for the canines, they can acquire skills which could strengthen their olfaction, leg strength and special vocal chords.

They use those skills freely and compete with the other races.

There are doesn't exist any races anymore that would look down on them for not being able to use magic.

Currently one beastman had just put their foot in the continent of such beastmen.

The body was concealed by a black robe and the head covered by a hood until only the shape of the mouth could be faintly seen.

Judging from the shape of the mouth, the gender is likely female.

Because her body was small, one would get the impression that she was young.

The moment she started walking in the port town of the beastmen continent <Leo Port>, she took off her hood.

What is attached to her head was a pin and mere white cat ears, and the girl's hair itself was completely white.

Her face still looked childish and she appeared to be the same age as Ruri, who was with Setsu for a while. She could be called a junior high school student by Japanese standards.

An old man selling the fishes he had fished in a store called out to that girl.

“Ooh! If it ain't Shironeko! Come take some of what I just fished today!”

“I will take it -desu”

The black robe wearing girl called Shironeko was given fresh fish who were jumping around even now.

“Oh! If this isn't Shironeko! Come take some of our vegetables, okay!”

“I will take it -desu”

This time the middle-aged greengrocer lady threw in several types of vegetables.

The girl took everything in her hand.

“Woah there! If it ain't Shironeko! Take some of our meat, will ya!”

“I will... not take it -desu”

“It ain't good to be picky ya know!”

“I, I understand -desu”

On the stacked bags in her arms was put a bag of fresh meat by the butcher's assistant.

Shironeko made an unpleasant face, but endured it one way or another and once again started walking.

When the girl walked in the city, people would greet her.

That is because Shironeko was currently the strongest in this city.

A beastman's instinct is to be fond of someone stronger than themselves.

For that reason the residents of the city respected her and loved her.

Despite being respected, their interaction felt like she was being treated as a child, but perhaps her appearance was to blame for that.

Shironeko held a large quantity of bags and went towards a tiny house on the outskirts of the city.

"I'm home -desu"

When she nimbly used her foot to open the door to the tiny house, she carefully went in so as not to drop the bags.



The room inside is spacious enough for at most two people to live in and there are absolutely no unnecessary furniture.

This is the house of the one who is popular in the city, Shironeko.

“Mineko, I’ve just returned home -no desu”

Shironeko called out to the girl on the bed in this cramped house.

“Welcome home, big sis”

Lying on the bed, a young girl with long black hair called Mineko responded to her voice and lifted up her body.

Judging from appearance, she would look older than Shironeko.

Her long black hair was disordered and jumped up here and there, but she boasted an exquisite innocence and her well featured face felt adultlike.

And then, the black cat ears growing on her head looked lovely.

However, no matter how one perceives them, they won’t realize from Shironeko’s appearance that she is the older sister.

“You don’t have get up -desu”

“I feel good today so I will be fine you know”

Mineko who said so had a cheerful appearance, but her body appeared weakly.

As a matter of course, she is currently being afflicted by an illness.

There was an illness that gradually weakened the body, its origin was unknown.

Even the city doctors had given up hope and couldn’t grasp the hope of curing her for about several years.

“First of all, today you will take the medicine too -no desu. Yesterday’s medicine was

gone, so today we received new medicine -no desu.”

“I’m sorry for having you do this every time... big sis”

“You’re my little sister, so you can act spoiled -no desu. Mineko, I will absolutely find a way to cure you -no desu.”

“...okay”

Mineko smiled.

Shironeko may be a slightly unsociable girl, but this time she showed a seemingly sad smile on her face.

Shironeko took out a bottle with black beads from the pocket of the robe she was wearing.

She opened it and dropped one bead on her hand.

It’s as large as a tablet in Japan.

“Swallow this -no desu”

“Okay...”

Together with water created by a simple water magic, the black bead went inside Mineko.

“...I will absolutely return you to your energetic body -no desu. Not medicine that only delays the symptoms, I will find proper medicine -no desu”

“Big sis... Please don’t do anything unreasonable okay?”

“I won’t -no desu. I am---strong -desu”

Shironeko stared at Mineko with strong eyes.

At that time, Shironeko’s ears responded to something with a twitch.

“...some work has come in -no desu. Mineko, I will be away from home for a little while, so lie down in bed -no desu”

“Okay, big sis”

She softly stroke Mineko’s head once and left the house.

Walking to the port town once again, Shironeko glared straight towards the direction of the sea.

In order to save her beloved family, her younger sister, she will turn her fangs to one man today---



“You can see it now---the beastmen continent”

“Hm... Yeah”

Lying down on the Levia’s head who is advancing on the sea, I feel nostalgia upon seeing the beastmen continent in front of me and unintentionally leaked out a stupid voice.

“Uhhee, how nostalgic”

“I’m no good at appearing like beasts though...”

“Endure it okay, endure... Your cat ears are dog ears you know?”

“What does that matter...”

It looks like this girl doesn’t understand the merit of animal ears.

Even though it would have increase your cuteness by 20% if even you put it on, how wasteful.

“At any rate, are we going to directly look for the lion king when we arrive at the beastmen continent?”

“Yeah, we have to end this troublesome war and make it easier to spend time in this world.

...and track down Alize.”

“...You’re right.”

I was able to confirm the fact that everyone in Alize’s village was dropped somewhere because of Area Summon.

After that we frantically investigated the village, but I couldn’t even find a single person.

We investigated the surroundings of the village just a little, but they’re not there either.

I understood they were kidnapped.

The problem is, to where.

“...Wouldn’t it be nice if they’re in the beastmen continent...”

I murmured softly and grasped my fist tightly.

“---We’re here”

I put my feet on the deserted coast that’s separated from the port town.

Levia also changed herself into a human form before she stands out.

“It’s been five days or something since we left that place! Either way, I so want to lie down on a bed since a long time. We couldn’t do anything but sleep outside these days after all.”

“That would be fine, I like soft beds, you know.”

“Then, how about we try and stay at an extravagant place for once!”

As I walk in high spirits, Levia walks together behind me.

The air at the beastmen continent is different from both the human continent and the demon continent.

It feels like it smells a little of animals, but if you get used to it it will calm you down rather than become troublesome.

We started going forward while we breathe in the air of this place since a long time, but we stopped after taking three steps.

“Nyaa”

“Huh?”

“Nyaa” “Nyaa” “Nyaa” “Nyaa” “Nyaa” “Nyaa” “Nyaa”

Lining up before us are a cat, a cat, a cat, a cat, a cat... (one of them is spelled nuko, not sure if intentional or a reference to a certain manga)

There were all sorts of cats ranging from small to large, but every one of them is looking at us.

Why are we welcomed by cats right after we have gotten here...---

Mineko

うしろ(シロネ) ミネコ 冬編)



Chapter 29

That's how it is, you stupid cat

“How, how cute...”

Levia beside me murmurs so while watching the various cats lining up. Sure, what's cute is cute, but I've never seen this scene up until now at least.

While feeling a little uneasy about this, I carefully observe the cats.

Then cats were lined up with even spaces between them and the type of cats are varied. Within them are also children and their eyes are all facing our way.

(Those eyes... they're a little strange)

The cats lined up with even spaces and staring is strange, but I can see the eyes of those guys are somewhat modified.

“Ain't this... visual link?”

Visual link---one of the Subordination magic. It's a magic where you yourself can see what the creature that has a master/servant relationship with you is seeing; it's the basis of subordination magic.

Incidentally, the race who are extremely good with Subordination magic are the beastmen. Beastmen can easily communicate with creatures the same as themselves, like the canines and dogs. There is a limit to how many links you can make using subordination magic, but for now I'll leave that out...

(This number of subordination magic... if these are all connected to one person, then this guy could be a considerable master...? If the person is a beastman, then that means they have more magic power than average in spite of being beastmen.)

Beings with lots of magic power while being beastmen are scarce but there are several numbers of them. Naturally, those people are always influential people. The problem

is, why are they acting like they are standing watch for disembarking people like this though---

“Setsu, something is here.”

“Oh?”

Levia called out to me who was being watched. Exactly as she said, a girl walked out from the front. From seeing cat ears on her head she seems to be a feline and those ears and hair are white. Although her body is smallish, I don't know for sure because of the body wrapping around her body.

Hm? Black robe---

“Levia, get ready for a fight”

“Eh?”

“That robe, it looks like the same as the guy who was in the demon lord's castle using shadow magic.”

“...I see”

When I confirmed Levia being alert, I concentrated so that I won't avert my line of sight from the cat eared girl.

“...I wish you would stop no desu”

“...hah?”

When I carefully watched her, the girl walked to about 20 metre distance and talked.

“If I'm stared at so much I will feel embarrassed no desu, that's why I wish you would stop no desu.”

“Oh, okay...”

What is with this girl... Her face went slightly red and she averted her eyes from me, as if she's really feeling embarrassed. It's as if she didn't have any signs of attacking,

so I instruct Levia to loosen her alertness. Of course I won't have her release it completely.

"...You, are you surely mister Setsu desu?"

The girl still seems to be a bit embarrassed, but she really looked at my face properly and asked a question.

"...How do you know my name?"

"I have received word from the Beast King no desu. The Beast King and his entourage are currently preparing for your welcome party, so he wishes for at least one day time."

"The beast king did?"

I tried to match my gaze in order to make sure it was authentic, but the girl didn't try to, from embarrassment again.

(...Is this some kind of scheme? There are many points to doubt on, but...)

Why would the beast king be aware of the time I would land here? Besides, why wouldn't he send a proper soldier, it doesn't look like there will be any end to it if I raise up all my doubts.

But---

"...Either way our departure will be tomorrow, right?"

"That's pretty much it..."

In the end, it became a talk about us not going to the beast king immediately and resting in a hotel for a day.

"If I receive your acknowledgement, I will look after your belongings in accordance to the Beast King's instructions no desu. I can also introduce you to a good inn no desu."

"Ah, that is an attractive proposal."

"Hey hold on there..."

Levia responds to the good inn part. That definitely got me interested, but hey, what are you going to do if it was a trap...

“You won’t be able to sleep comfortably while you’re concerning yourselves with traps and whatnot, right? Try thinking about it seriously.”

“...that’s also true.”

I persuade her in a low voice so as to not let the girl hear it and Levias then understood. Even though I want to rest in a bed after so long, I’ll lose my interest if I won’t be able to rest because I have to stay vigilant.

“My bad, eh. I’ll be going to the inn of an acquaintance of mine, so I won’t be needing a guide, yeah”

“...Is that so, I understand no desu”

As expected, that’s a lie. I don’t know such an inn.

I’m a little worried about today, but it seems like she accepted for now.

“So is it fine if we go to that guy’s place tomorrow during the day?”

“That guy...?”

“Yeah, the beast king you know, the beast king.”

“...That’s right, we would like you to come tomorrow during the day desu”

The girl says so with a dumbfounded look. What gives? I only called the beast king that guy and you’ll be this surprised about it?”

Well then, I must be going desu, we will be waiting for you tomorrow desu.”

“kay”

As the dumbfounded expression ended, the girl gave her farewell and took the cats with her. Levias beside me showed a regretful face, but let’s not mind that.

“We’re going too Levia, we have to go to the inn quickly.”

“*sigh*... I guess.”

From now on, cats and dogs will come out as many as you like, that’s why don’t worry about it, okay...



“ .. ”

At a place separated from the beach, Shironeko stared fixedly at the target, Setsu and one other girl.

(As expected... introducing them to an inn by an unfamiliar person and having them follow her recklessly is impossible desu...)

In the case that they do tell her to introduce them to a hotel and accompany her without being on guard, she would have intended to accommodate them in the chosen hotel and attack them in their sleep. The plan was naturally a failure and Shironeko immediately came up with the next action.

(He is someone powerful enough to be able to call the beast king with “that guy”... I can’t be careless desu)

There are no beastmen who does not know of the abilities of that beast king. And there are also no beastmen who would not follow that beast king. That is because beastmen are attracted to strong people after all. And the battlemaniacs among them would continue challenging the beast king in a fight. That is because fighting strong people is also something they look forward to.

Shironeko too sprouted a considerable desire to want to try fighting with Setsu, but she had to throw away that desire for the sake of protecting her important person.

“Even if I have to attack you in your sleep... I must defeat you no desu”

The girl averts her eyes from her own slightly wavering heart and moves her legs to the direction of the town Setsu and Levia is heading towards---



The inn at the heart of the port town in the beastmen continent, “Lion’s beloved bower”---This is the inn we will be staying in for today.

The price is reasonably priced, but the interior is quite beautiful and the served lunch was at a level I can’t complain about.

“*exhale* ... For now, how about we go to our room.”

“...I guess we could.”

We leave the inn’s dining room. The interior is pretty, the food is also good... the problem would only be the stares around us.

(Well, I guess it’s because they’re in the middle of war now)

I’m starting to forget about it somewhat, but right now the beastmen are in the middle of a greatly admired war with the human continent. For that reason the beastmen’s public opinion on humans are harsh no matter where you go out to.

(Even just by taking up a hotel you can profit from this... this way)

Did they plan to harass us in a petty way? From large proportion of available rooms we were passed on the cheapest and the smallest room, but it shouldn’t be enough to bother us.

If I can sleep on the bed then I’m fine with this.”

Without hesitation, Levia dived into the bed. There are two of them in this room so in short, a double room. We didn’t act like we’ll be taking two rooms because we’re man and woman. It’s wasteful above all.

“Shall we take a short break for now...”

Since I didn’t particularly have any bags I carry, I soon jumped on the other side of the bed. Aah, it’s so soft... this is irresistible.

In spite of the sun still high in the sky, my consciousness fell into deep slumber---



“...It’s here desu”

Late at night. It’s the period of time where the lights go out and the drunkards are strutting about in the city. Shironeko is standing in front of the “Lion’s beloved bower.”

When she went in through the elegant door, a canine man who is the innkeeper here beckoned the girl.

“...Where is that couple desu?

“They’re in the corner most room on the second floor. Here, it’s the key.”

Shironeko received the key to the room and thanked the man.

The girl already proposed cooperation to every person in this city. She also knew they were in that inn, because the people in the city had told her.

“I don’t think attacking them in their sleep is really a good way to do this though...”

“I know no desu. But... No matter what I have to defeat him no desu.”

“...Yeah, it’s for your little sister after all.”

Beastmen like fighting, therefore they like it fair and square. But before fighting, they love family more than anything. For instance, even if they have to use cowardly tactics, they will use them as much as they have to if it is for the sake of their family.

“I’ll have the lots living in the neighbourhood take refuge. We confirmed that those guys started lying on the bed in their room. And eh... please try not to break too much, okay?”

“I will handle it carefully... desu”

Because they were so cautious some time ago, she thought they may be vigilant eight or nine out of ten cases even now, that is what is in Shironeko’s mind. Perhaps... it would become a fierce battle.

“...I’ll be on my way desu”

The girl carefully ascended the staircase so as to not make any noise.

(---It’s here desu)

While walking through the second floor hallway and using her nature so the wooden floor wouldn’t make strange noises, she finally arrived in front of the intended room.

(If I can end this with one blow... would be fine though)

While embracing such fleeting hopes, she tried thrusting the key into the doorknob. However---

(Huh... it doesn’t fit)

The key didn’t go into the doorknob. It seems the shape was somehow incorrect.

(That innkeeper... made a mistake desu? Kuh... In that case)

Shironeko took some distance from the door and prepares herself.

(I will barge in and assault them in one go... It’s alright, I memorized that man’s scent desu...)

She put strength into her legs. She lowered her waist and crossing her arms horizontally in front of her face. Then she used a lot of magic power for a beastman and spread it throughout her whole body. Due to that, even her sharp nails extended noticeably and was furthermore increased in sharpness.

She thought about confirming Setsu’s scent at this place just in case, but there were the scent of various things everywhere, so she couldn’t catch his smell. Even while experiencing a light anxiety, Shironeko immediately shook off that anxiety. She will understand all the same when she goes in. As long as she could distinguish the bed the instant he notices her, it will be fine.

“I will end it... in an instant desu... ngh!”

Shironeko kicked with so much strength it broke the wooden floor and approached

the door instantly. When she swung her prepared arms just before the collision, the door became small pieces of fragments, made noise and fell down.

Shironeko jumped to above the bed with her nail still holding that sharpness.

(Which bed desu... ugh!?---Wait, where?)

Shironeko jumped up and noticed it. In the two beds in this room, the beings that were supposed to be in them---**were not there.**

(It can't be... a trap...?)

With the enemy she stabbed with her nail not there, she arrived at that possibility.

"If it's like that---"

"That's how it is, you stupid cat!"

"Oh no!"

Right before she got her feet on the floor, Shironeko was assaulted by a dropkick from right beside the place she prepared to land at.

The girl instantly crossed her arms in front of her body and after she received an unexpected impact, she flew through the windows and towards the street.

"I was careless... desu!"

Shironeko, who dropped to the ground along with the window glass, rotated once midair and landed on her four legs like a cat jumping from a tall place.

A dull pain shot through the moment her hands stuck to the ground, but thanks to her being strengthened by magic power, the pain didn't prolong so much.

"I really didn't think the citizens would even cooperate with you, you know? Though it makes it easier to go on a rampage though.

And so---I'm gonna have you throw up everything about the black robes okay?"

"!?"

Setsu jumped out from the window and unsheathed his black large sword from his magic bag.

Chapter 30

Say that earlier

“Why... were you able to do a surprise attack on me desu”

The white haired feline had her hands and feet on the ground and asked me who got down on the ground. Looking at her magic power flowing through her nails, this must be her fighting style.

“It was a petty trick you know, and you got caught in it, hook, line and sinker.”

When we arrived at the inn, we went to take a nap on the bed just like that and as preparation for the night, we used the light attribute magic <Illusion>. This magic uses the refraction of the light and possesses the effect of disturbing a person’s perception.

“It didn’t fit in the keyhole right? That wasn’t the inn’s mistake, but simply you only mistaking the room.”

The room this girl went in was the one before our room. With <Illusion> making the recognition of the hallway vague, it can make the optical illusion that the hallway ends over there.

---Be that as it may.

I never thought the people from the inn would cooperate with this girl. But I can understand that now.

(She’s... quite strong)

If I have to speak with ranks, she should be in a spot between SS and SSS rank... she will be defeated by the perfect Levia, but she’s at the level where she can win right now.

I’ll tell you now, but there aren’t so many people this strong you know. That’s why the beastmen cooperates with her. Because they love people stronger than themselves.

By the way, beastmen are creatures where the number one in every race takes up command. Because of this simple thought, the strongest in the continent becomes king and everyone living there respects and follows him or her. They're much easier to understand than demons and humans, who think about troublesome things and care about inheritance and lineage.

"I was trapped... desu"

"Looks like you understand. And so... this is sudden, but how about you let me hear the purpose of you black robed people okay?"

"..."

"Oh? Cat got your tongue?"

Without saying anything, the white haired feline sharpened her senses quietly. She's obviously ready for battle.

"Shu!"

"Hah! At least answer the question!"

Flipping the earth with four legs, the white haired feline leaped towards me with a figure close to diving. At the same time I parry her swung arm with Kuromaru and swing it sideways.

"Ugh"

Unable to stand firm in mid air due to jumping, the feline girl used her nails as a shield, but she was pushed away by the power from the attack from the side.

Thrusting her nails into the ground and reducing the force, the girl rearranged her posture while frowning from the pain given by the impact that broke through her.

"Haa!"

"Oh, you can still stand."

With a facial expression mixed with half desperation, the white haired feline once again kicked the ground and leaped. I observe her movements well while I sometimes stop and sometimes dodge the striking nail attacks she unleashes.

“I tell you, those impatient attacks won’t hit!”

“ugh...”

Because of her excessively large movements, her distinctive characteristic, which was her speed, had lost its meaning. The muscles meant for speed were completely useless.

“It’s too pointless, you catgirl!”

I easily go through the nail dance, leaped to her bosom and at the same time I thrust the grip of Kuromaru towards the defenseless body.

“Gah...”

And the instant she stopped moving, which was my aim, I seized the collar of the white haired feline’s robe.

And then---

“Oraa!

I throw her right behind me. The white haired feline who was thrown into the air suddenly couldn’t move smoothly and struggled while floating in mid air.

The next moment after I threw her, I grab Kuromaru and pour a small amount of magic power into it. Raising it overhead, I’ve decided on my aim and lightly swung down.

“<Flying blade>---ngh!”

It’s a flying slash whose scope is the same as the one I unleashed in the dragon’s nest, but it goes towards the white feline while gouging the street in front of the inn.

“Tch...”

The girl who couldn’t try to dodge in mid air wrapped her arms around her body and twisted her body. And then the moment it collided---

“Haa!”

When just the twisted part of her body revolved in the air and her extended nails touched my <Flying blade>, the sound of clashing then played especially from her nails. But the girl’s body deflected the slash from its route and the <Flying blade>, not budging even when hit by the nails, pushed on as it is. When it looked like the innermost house of the street is going to be destroyed in an instant, a suddenly appearing water wall interrupted its course in order to protect the house.

The <Flying blade> collided with the water wall and the water shook like it has the elasticity of of a gum, reducing the force of the slashing attack completely and dispersing it. When the duty of the water wall ended, which is to protect against my slash, its form crumbled, became a pool and disappeared.

“Yeah, my bad Levia.”

“<Water wall>... at full power... ugh! Stopping your <Flying blade> is difficult, so don’t use it so much, you understand!?”

“I got it, I got it...”

I meekly apologize to Levia who was standing on the house that was going to come in contact with my <Flying Blade>. I had her prevent damage to the houses and the like from the fight right now, but it looks like it’s a bit of a heavy burden for Levia who isn’t submerged in water.

“Not coming with the two of you... are you underestimating me desu...?”

“Hm?”

The white haired feline girl who escaped from the <Flying blade> scowled at me as she gets battle ready on all fours. Or rather, I’m getting pretty tired of calling her a white haired feline.

“I’m not underestimating you or anything though? I just suck at teamplay.”

It’s because it’s hard to move freely when someone joins me in a fight, at least in my case. If it’s that trap of a gay hero bastard, then he may be able to stick with me, but

it's possible that the other people would get dragged into my attacks and collapse first.

“..”

“Oh and hey, I want to hear your name, so please tell me”

“...Why desu?”

“Don't glare at me like that, it's not like I wanted to get along with you. I simply wanted to know, that's all; my battle opponent's name”

Upon hearing that, the white haired feline opened her mouth after thinking for a bit.

“---Shironeko desu”

“Huh, ain't that a nice name.”

It's a secret that I didn't think so.

“I'm Setsu, I'm probably the strongest man in this world.”

“I didn't ask for it desu...”

“Aw, don't say that... It's the name of the guy who's going to make you submit to me after this you know?”

“Be silent... desu!”

“gh... seriously?”

The moment I'm told to shut up, a transformation was called to Shironeko's body. The cells on her whole body shines and at the same time, the shape transformed from a humanoid to an animal. Her form changed to pointy ears, slit eyes and a long shaking tail.

Around the time the light settled, the figure of the lovely girl wasn't there. What is there is one cat---possessing a beautiful white fur and even more sharply strengthened nails on its hand, it was a figure that feels mystical rather than lovable.

---It's just that she's unreasonably big.

"...haah!?"

Wait wait wait wait! What does this mean!?

"It's <Animalization>... desu"

"I know that!"

<Animalization>---A skill only beastmen can handle and a skill where one changes into a figure where her or she can reveals its full strength on the table. Basically any beastmen who stacked up training can use it and the level of that ability scares other races. When using it, their physical ability raises to several stages and it greatly amplifies their magic power depending on the person. And... not surprisingly, that figure is that of an animal. A canine would transform into a dog and a feline into a cat.

Following this story, Shironeko undergoing <Animalization> isn't something to be surprised about. The problem is... her size.

"Why are you this huge...? Shouldn't beastmen using <Animalization> be transforming into an **average** sized animal?"

In other words, a canine were supposed to become a size who can be kept in Japan as a pet and the same goes for felines. Nevertheless, the power within them are higher than their humanoid counterpart with a large difference so you can't be careless, but...

"When I trained myself it became like this desu"

"Seriously!?"

Could it be that their sizes become this large just from having power!? Now that I think about it, I've never seen the animalization of the beast king and the bunches around him, have I... I got separated as I made a promise to fight with the beast king too...

"The idle talk ends desu!"

"W-! Oops..."

I dodged the arm that's like a log unleashed to mow me down by jumping a little high. When I look at Shironeko as I jumped up, I saw an unpleasant thing.

"Ugeh... a <beast cannon>, really?"

"Gaah!"

I push Kuromaru in front of me to hide my body. When doing so, an invisible impact that was like a collision of a huge iron ball ran through and I, including Kuromaru, was blown way back.

If I remember correctly, <Beast cannon> is a bombardment of voice pressed together that is used by beastmen. It can even be called a roar. It's a skill where they amass air in their strengthened lungs, pressed together by the vocal chords and fired in a straight line together with a loud roar.

"This bastard... gh"

I use wind magic in midair. I use magic that makes scaffolding and forcibly kick the air. After cutting down the force I was blown away with and landing on the roof of one of the houses, I started running at the same time.

"You little... If you shoot something like that <Beast cannon>, won't the neighbourhood be in big trouble!?"

"I already had the neighbourhood residents evacuate desu! There are no people in the surroundings desu!"

"Wha---"

You've got to be kidding me... These things---

"---say that earlier!"

"Guh!?"

I jump towards Shironeko from the roof. When I try to strike overhead with all my strength with Kuromaru, it was then defended by the sharply strengthened nails on her foreleg.

“Out of my way!”

After getting my sword defended against, I quickly reversed my cut and with all my strength, I throw up the nails from below. Then I landed in front of the defenseless Shironeko and released Kuromaru from my right hand.

“Kuh...”

“Don’t you think we could have fought to our heart’s content from the beginning if I knew that!?”

I swung my released right hand and with an open palm I strike Shironeko’s face. It’s the so-called face slap.

Receiving a strong impact from her side, the girl was blown away horizontally and her face sunk into a nearby house---

Chapter 31

I won't leave her alone

“---Is it over?”

“Hm?”

Levia jumped down from the top of the roof and landed beside me. Shironeko, with her head sunk into a house, couldn't move.

“There's no sign of moving though...”

“...How about I pull her up and check for now?”

I walk closely towards the large Shironeko, grab the hair on her head and brace myself. Together with what's small resistance for me, her head came out with a pop and when I release her head a dull sound was made upon landing on the ground. When doing so, her body shined and returned to her original humanoid form.

“She... fainted, didn't she?”

“I, I don't remember hitting her with that much strength though...”

“It's because you're always bad at moderation... it's high time you are more aware of yourself about this...”

I'm completely shocked... even though it's like this, I put in a lot of effort in this you know?

“But I give up, I wasn't able to hear the things about those black robes...”

I touched the black robe of Shironeko who's lying face up. As I expected, it's the same robe as that shadow bastard no matter how I look at it. I'm sure she's involved with those guys.

“I’ll temporarily strip off all of her possessions---Ouch!?”

I unintentionally leak out my voice from suddenly getting hit on my head with something. Is it maybe this stone that fell down nearby?

“Setsu... we’re surrounded you know”

“Huh?”

I look around us and got surprised. Male and female beastmen of all ages are standing in order to surround us. It seems like they’re the people who live here...

“What’s up with you?”

I ask the brat who’s probably the guy who threw the stone. The brat glared at us with full of anger on his face.

“How dare you do this to Shironeko!”

“Ah? The one who started was this girl you know?”

I object to the brat who said something extremely unreasonable.

“A guy who charged into us with the intent to kill is someone I can’t leave alone as one would expect, now can I?”

“Shut yer mouth! Just die obediently!”

Hey, would you listen to me old man...

I glared at the old man who was spreading the shouts behind the brat.

“Why are you showing this attitude... this man won from this child didn’t he? Wasn’t it the beastmen who has respect for strong people I wonder?”

“I do have respect for this man! But it’s a different story this time!”

A cat eared old lady answered Levia’s question. What is this “it’s a different story”.

“If you’re not defeated then Shironeko will, you know!... Shironeko’s... little sister will...”

Little sister?

I thought about the problem from the old man’s words, who for some reason began to cry in frustration.

“---My bad eh, won’t ya please let me take it from here?”

“You’re...”

The one who pushed his way through the crowd and showed his figure was a single man.

“You’re the owner of the inn aren’t you?”

“Yeah. Everyone, please break up this fight... We can’t win from this guy at any rate can we?”

When he said that, the residents bowed with frustrated faces and left this place one by one. Every one of them made a facial expression as if they abandoned hope, but...

“Are you going to explain this?”

“Yeah, we’re going back to the inn for a little while.”

Saying that, the innkeeper carried the collapsed Shironeko and walked towards the inn.

Levia and I looked at each other’s face and then decided to follow the guy for now.



“Hum... I knew it, my liege’s beloved man is out of standard isn’t he...”

A person was watching Setsu following the innkeeper on the roof of a house not far from there. With a high pitch voice, the person wears a black robe and has put on a hood, but one can understand the person is a woman from her characteristic curves.

“Nevertheless, if she’s even done in easily this way, we wouldn’t be able to dispose of

her after all.”

While Kuroinu’s gaze is aimed at Shironeko who was being carried away on his shoulder, she gave a harsh judgment. As a matter of fact, it wasn’t that she was given the order to dispose of her should she be defeated. But from her perspective, who entered the group with high loyalty towards Touma, she considers others as useless if they’re defeated and that is plenty of reason for her. And so, the woman called Kuroinu is a woman who thinks that people who are useless to him should stop existing.

“That’s right... I may as well dispose of her along with her **bothersome younger sister**. As punishment for being useless...”

Saying those last words, Kuroinu vanished into the city of night with light movements—
—



“---Younger sister?”

“Aye, Shironeko’s got a younger sister”

We gathered in a room in the inn we were staying in. We and the innkeeper are sitting in a chair and Shironeko is lying on the bed in the room.

“What’s wrong with her?”

“...She’s taken as a hostage, her younger sister Mineko that is.”

“By who?”

“The black robe wearing lots. Those guys are often seen in this city and each one of them have a strange mood hanging around them, ya see.”

I knew it... so it’s those black robed bunch.

“It’s not that the hostage is even kidnapped.”

“What do you mean by that?”

“Mineko got a sickness, where her body gradually loses strength and it sounded like there is no hope for her to get cured from it. There seems to be medicine that could slow down its advance, but...”

“...I see, so the ones who have them are the black robed guys right?”

“You got that right. And the orders they left her seems to be to attack you.”

Wait, so that means that Shironeko attacked me without meaning to attack me. Really, intentionally aiming for me. I knew it, the black robe leader is... I don't even want to think about that---

“? You're looking pale, Setsu.”

“...Yeah, I only accidentally remembered the face of the guy I don't want to remember for a bit.”

“Are you fine with going on with the conversation?”

I shook my head to brush off bad thoughts. It's not like it's decided that that guy is alive, it's fine if I don't mind it while there's no proof.

“Yeah, please go on”

“Got it. And then, we wanted to cooperate with her. Shironeko is nearly the strongest in this region after all, everyone would bite if they could be of use to her.”

“And so you evacuated didn't you?”

“Aye, everyone was worried about her and hid themselves in the end.”

I see, so that's why they completely surrounded us in no time.

“Even I sold you out to Shironeko and I think that's the worst thing to do as an innkeeper. Sorry about that.”

“It's already fine though... even so, I have the feeling there were an awfully lot of guys who would carry Shironeko's shoulders though...”

“It’s because it has to do with her younger sister Mineko... Shironeko and Mineko being a an outstanding pair is their feature. The tag team of those two managed to add a wound on the great Beast king.”

Hey, that’s pretty amazing. Putting a wound on the beast king would become proof of their ability being at least SSS rank in this world. This world’s kings, with the exception of the human country Destinea, are both out of standards. Those two people probably won’t be defeated even if one hire several SSS rank adventurers. And one SSS rank won’t even be able to leave a single wound on them. If I say this much, you should be able to easily understand the strength of the two.

Well, I don’t intend to lose if the two kings come at me, but... I would at least get hurt.

“If they can become the strongest together, then we won’t have a choice but to respect both of them, don’t you think?”

“Well... I guess.”

“At any rate, Shironeko won’t be able to taste freedom as long as she’s threatened by her... If her illness is suddenly healed someday, it’ll be a different story, but...”

“ ... ”



I silently stand up and walk up to Shironeko. The girl who is making a regular sleeper's breathing is like the embodiment of childishness who hasn't matured yet. I quietly carry her in my arms. The princess carry one. Nevertheless, she's light and yet how is she so strong? My travel companions Elka and Tia, the demon lord Desas and Alize the pupil. Does every one of them hold that kind of power?

Hm? Levia? Her real form holds a mass that suits her strength, so she doesn't count.

"Say, where is her house?"

"It's, it's on the outskirts, but... are you gonna carry Shironeko there?"

"Yeah. I was able to get a bit interested in this after all. Levia, we're going."

The sky is starting to turn slightly grey. It looks like we talked a lot, the night is about to end I guess. Fortunately we took plenty a nap so we don't feel sleepy.

"Really..."

"If we start walking now, we'll arrive there around the time that little sister gets up won't we?"

In any case, she won't be getting up, so it's not necessary to hurry. But... there were some things I want to think about. I want to walk a bit to sort these thoughts out too.

"Well then innkeeper, we're going. You haven't taken the money when you sold your guest right?"

"Heh... I guess"

Tch, so he got away with that---is what his face is saying while he averted his eyes. I think his business spirit is quite the thing you know? While me and Levia showed bitter smiles, we left behind the inn. My arms got tired so I quit the princess carry, carry her on my back and then walk through the silent neighborhood.

"Why are we going to this child's house?"

Walking beside me, Levia came to ask while peeping at Shironeko's sleeping face.

“...If it was up to me, then I’m thinking I may be able to save that younger sister.”

“*sigh* ... So it’s like that.”

She breathed an amazed sigh to my answer. That’s not surprising, I’m again planning to do what I was told not to do a few days ago, after all.

“I won’t stop you anymore okay... since it looks like it’s useless...”

“Yeah, my bad. But---isn’t it fine if I protect at least a single family?

Abandoning a family suffering in front of my eyes is... something I can’t do---

Chapter 32

I have no choice but to do it

“Huh... I am...”

““Sup, so you’re up now”

“!?”

Within the morning air, Shironeko, who was jolting on my back, woke up. Surveying her surroundings with half opened eyes, she stiffened after my response which opened her lovely eyes wide open to her limit when she understood she is being carried on my back.

“Why... are you? What happened to the fight...”

“The outcome is your loss. Then after you fainted, I got to hear your circumstances to an extent. I’m told you have a younger sister, right?”

“...Are you really planning to lay your hands on my sister desu!? Only that is---”

“Even I won’t do that so would you just calm down?”

Levia who is walking beside me was holding down Shironeko who’s acting violently. I squeeze my arms that are holding her legs and fixed it more firmly.

Shironeko, who is held down with a strong force, seems to understand she’s really no match and gradually lost strength in her body.

“What are you going to do... to us desu...?”

“I ain’t gonna do nothing okay? Or is it like that? Do you wish for it somehow?”

“That’s not it desu! But I aimed for your life no desu...”

“Aah, so it’s about that.”

When I boldly called aiming for my life as “that”, Shironeko got startled and opened her eyes wide. Her facial expression then became noticeably sad afterwards.

“So you mean my attacks... were not worth being feared of desu...?”

“Hm? Aah. Well, something like that I guess.”

“Ugh...”

Hey... it isn’t something to be sad about, is it... though I think it’s also my bad for saying that plainly.

The person who made her like that couldn’t offer words of encouragement to Shironeko who released a gloomy aura more and more, but Levia followed me up instead with an amazed expression.

“...This man is out of standard in various ways, so don’t mind it okay?”

“That... I’m aware of desu...”

I’m aware of---Hearing those words I mutter “So I really am” while sighing.

“Shironeko, we’re not going to fight anymore as long as you don’t do anything. If you do, then I’ll go along with you until you’re satisfied but... it’s troublesome so it’ll help me if you don’t.

“Okay...”

“And so... Well, our lives were aimed for more or less. I’m pretty much whatever, but Levia could’ve been injured. When thinking about that kind of risk, I can’t release you as is.

I think that if I say something a little threatening then she’ll become a little afraid, but I can see a strong will in her eyes. As if saying her strength is unrivaled and she won’t lose with her feelings.

“I won’t do anything to you, but that only has physical meaning. I won’t use violence, but... I want you to answer my questions obediently. I won’t do more than that, you

understand?”

Shironeko nodded, urging me to continue.

“All right... then I’ll be frank. I want to ask about the boss who’s threatening you two. What is... that guy’s name?”

“...That person... is called Tohma by his companions desu. I didn’t have a close relationship with those people, so I don’t know it precisely desu though...”

I unintentionally dropped my shoulders in disappointment towards the name that flew out of the girl’s mouth. Towards me who blatantly lost all my excitement, both of them turned their line of sight that’s saying “what’s wrong”.

“What is the matter with you suddenly?”

“Nothing... it’s just that I felt down from being hit by the worst possible expectation, is all”

Tia, Elka... What you said was true you know. Grein, that guy’s alive you see, moreover he made a strange organization and is aiming for me. What should I do? You guys, think I can go along with you from hereon?

The face of the three companions of mine who are currently lively in the country Destinea emerged in my mind. It’s fine if it’s only now, but I feel like wanting to be by their side.

“I’m already nearly despairing, but... I’ll ask just in case. That guy’s appearance is?”

“He’s also wearing the same black robe like us so... I haven’t even seen his face desu. But he has a small build and is extremely thin, as if he is like a girl desu. Ah, his voice is also high-ish...”

Yeah, that’s settled. I was hoping I’m probably mistaking him for the wrong person, but that hope broke down too easily. No... I mean, to think he really is alive... I even dealt him the finishing blow with these hands. Even now I don’t know if I actually felt it.

Basically, <Sacred Sword> wielders acquires immortality as they raise their abilities.

Even if you got yourself a fatal wound, you resurrect at the moment before the torch of light vanishes and the concept of lifespan and existence of illness become irrelevant.

When the Hero in games die they revive don't they? It's kind of like that.

But, there is a way to kill those monstrous Heroes.

That is a fellow sacred sword wielder, in other word fighting them with a fellow Hero--

A <Sacred Sword> can destroy another <Sacred sword> and in doing so, the owner loses their immortality. If I have to change my way of saying it, it's like depriving them from their Hero qualifications. In other words it means that they cannot retry like a Hero in a game can after a Game Over. I don't quite understand the theory behind it, but either way it seems that the <Sacred Sword> holds quite some power in this world. Especially... the point that it makes the person's death irrelevant is---

But this talk... including even the talk about Touma has one clear contradiction.

Touma and I prepared our respective <Sacred Sword> and fought. And then when I killed that guy, I was sure Touma's <Sacred Sword> was broken by my <Sacred Sword>.

I remember it, the feeling of <Gluttony> stabbing that guy's heart is... the feeling of snatching away a life is---

“---Setsu, are you alright?”

I came back to reality from the vortex of thoughts with Levia's uneasy voice. While I lightly contemplate on worrying her, I'll think about the present time and push away all my useless thoughts into the corner of my mind. I'll put off thinking about how that guy revived and finish what's in front of me for now.

“Yeah... I'm fine.”

“I see... Ah, isn't Shironeko's house that one I wonder?”

Levia returned to her usual mood and in the direction she pointed at is a single isolated house built. The house that is in a place a little outside of the city is surrounded with many trees and I can't deny the minute lonely impression it has.

“It’s that desu, over there my sister is also...”

“*exhales* ... So we finally arrived.”

When the morning glow passed and the sky started to become blue, us three arrived at Shironeko’s house.



Facing the door to Shironeko’s house, I knock on the wooden door. There was no response.

“I think my sister is sleeping desu. It is almost time for her to wake up desu.”

“That so. Well, it’ll be fine if we just enter right?”

“Yes desu.”

As she got off my back, Shironeko unlocked the door and when the door opened, the three of us entered the house. It’s a house that didn’t really give off a novel impression, but the interior is beautifully ordered and although it’s small, it’s not enough to think it is cramped.

When we looked around in the house restlessly, something was moving at a high speed by the bed inside.

“Mine---”

“Get away from big sis, you human!”

Something was moving at high speed, interrupting Shironeko when she wanted to say something... No, she’s a feline girl with fluttering black hair, but she leaped towards me with her sharpened nails overhead.

“Woah there...”

I instantly stopped my thinking from the abruptness, but my body, which reacted instantly, grabbed the arm that was swung down, I moved my feet and successfully

held her down on the floor. Having a light body weight, I could easily steal her body's freedom.

"Kuh..."

"Mineko, calm down desu, these people aren't bad people desu"

She talked as if to persuade this girl I held down and her resistance weakened.

"...If you says so, sis..."

"This girl is your younger sister?"

"Yes desu, my younger sister Mineko desu"

No, no matter how you look at it, Shironeko would be more of a younger sister, but... is it bad if I retort to that? When I unintentionally looked at Levia, she silently shook her head. I see, so it seems it's bad for women.

"Yeah, my bad. Holding you down like that... Here you go"

I confirm there was completely no resistance and then move away from Mineko. Having lost her restraint, she stood up while sweeping away the dust on her clothes.

"I'm Setsu and this one here is Levia."

"I'm Mineko. Sis Shironeko's younger sister---*cough*! *cough*!"

"!?"

In the middle of our self introduction, Mineko suddenly held her chest like she's in pain and she completely crumbled down from her knee.

That's right, they did say she had an illness that weakens her body---

"Mineko! It's all because you acted violently desu! Rest in the bed quickly desu!"

"I'm, I'm sorry *cough* ... Sis... *cough cough*..."

Shironeko gave Mineko her shoulder and let her lie down on the bed inside. When the painful and violently coughing girl was made to drink water, the painful expression gradually faded.

“...Is this progressing faster than we expected...?”

“I guess... to become like this from that amount of exercise...”

Seeing Mineko lying down, we say that.

Shironeko is frantically nursing the girl who still has a little painful expression. Even you see something like this, even I, someone who finds things troublesome, would as expected---

“I have no choice but to do it, huh...”

Chapter 33

Surprise attack

“I’m sorry desu... Mineko doesn’t really trust humans...”

Shironeko was nursing the girl, but she explained Mineko’s behavior back then. I told her not to mind it and observed Mineko’s condition.

Despite the fact her coughing stopped, her breathing is rough and she looked pale.

“...Say, what if I told you I may be able to cure her illness... what will you do?”

“-!?”

When I asked that, Shironeko turned her head with an earth-shattering look and grabbed me.

“You can do that desu!? I beg of you desu! Please help Mineko desu!”

The face she was making when she grabbed my clothes and petitioned was different from the warrior’s face of the brave beastman who fought me back then. Right now it’s the face of a pure girl who is thinking of her family... I’ve seen a similar face just once before.

[Please Yuki-kun! Help me!]

“---Yeah, I’ll help you out...”

The childhood friend who once relied on me and requested my help and the current Shironeko are overlapping closely. I stroke her head in order to give her a peace of mind and then I stand beside Mineko.

I glide my hand on her beautiful skin that’s without even a single pimple, searching for the origin of the illness that is destroying her body.

“Oh light, expose the wicked existences---<Break Light>”

By having that aria, I unleash the magic that will examine the target's health. It's better to recite the aria if you have the extra time for it. It's because you can expect more results from it than without an aria.

(...Hm?)

The light is sinking into the bloodstream and the flow of magic power inside the body and it attempts to finally reach at the origin of the disease, but it couldn't find anything. More like... an entire body of black mist like thing exists as if corroding the whole body and I completely couldn't see the fundamental root of it.

(This feeling is... tch, are you serious)

That illness that's destroying Mineko isn't something simple. A more threatening black repulsive thing... that Touma guy's---

“---<Cursed magic>”

“Wai, wait a minute desu! Does that mean...”

“? What is that, this <Cursed magic> you're saying.”

<Cursed magic>---a unique magic that carries improper effects and is used by Touma as a Hero. Just by touching the target, the user would be able to give the other person a <Curse> he/she creates. The type of <Curse> can be anything, varied from movement restricting curses to something that eats the person's body like an illness.

Because using it cost a lot of magic power due to its utility, using it consecutively being impossible is a relief, but with that demerit included, there is an excessive benefit from it.

If a curse is attached to you, there will be almost no way to undo it anymore. It may somehow be fine if you gather dozens of light magic specialists and have all of them continue casting purification magic, but...

“That bastard... Ain't he both the one who handed over the medicine and the source of this illness... Shironeko, please show me Mineko's medicine for a bit.”

“It’s, it’s this desu...”

In the small bottle she handed to me are many black beads. When I took them out and smelled it, it has the same smell as the Sei○gan that helped me out during my time in Japan.

“---Geh, you fucking kidding me, ain’t this totally Seiro○!”

I threw the bottle in my hand outside. It flew out from the empty window and at the same time when the bottle disappears, the sound of glass breaking can be heard.

“Hol... Is that fine!? Isn’t that Mineko’s medicine...”

“That thing’s a medicine that’s only effective on illness! It has zero effect on a <Curse>!”

The curse is dangerous, particularly only Touma’s curses are absolutely bad to get. Right after you receive it, your body that got stuck with it will be violated as he pleases.

Even Levia who was pointing her reproachful eyes to me went silent after hearing phrase <Curse>. It doesn’t look like she understood <Curse> well, but she understood the dangers when I got this upset with just that.

“That can’t be... what did I accompany that person for up until now desu...?”

“...”

There was nothing I could say to Shironeko.

She took actions she thought was right, but she understood there was no meaning even if she didn’t become an enemy. The medicine she went all the way to receive it was unnecessary. It’s because Mineko can’t be saved with the medicine she received...

Shironeko, who clearly understood that, held Mineko’s hand who is lying in bed.

Without looking at the girl who looks like she’s about to let out tears of regret, I faced Mineko once again.

“You can... cure her... desu?”

With tears showing in her eyes, Shironeko turns her eyes towards me as if she's relying on me.

I once again stroke her head and smiled at her so she could have a peace of mind.

"Yeah, leave that to me"

Separating my hands from her head, I held my hands out towards empty space.

"---<Gluttony>"

Suddenly, a space in the air cracked.

From the empty hole in the empty space, a sinister magic power blew out, filling the room.

"Uugh..."

Affected by the magic power, Levia and Shironeko's body crumbled on the spot.

It means the magic power gushing out is too strong of a stimulus for the two.

If it was outside, the magic power would spread and shouldn't result to this, but unfortunately the inside is easily filled with magic power.

The sinister magic power gushing out in large quantity filled the room and the face of the two of them became pale. If I don't finish this swiftly then these guys will be in danger.

"Hey, come on out"

Suddenly, a sword grip appeared from the hole in the air. When I grip it and pul it out, the saved up magic power inside was dragged out along with the sword I'm pulling and it took form as the blade portion of the **bladeless** sword.

The hoarded magic power held its form and becomes a slightly curved blade. Black magic power is coiling around it and covered the whole sword.

What is here is not wickedness, but simple <Craving>, wanting to indulge itself in exhausting simply everything, it's the appetite of the <Heteromorph type> sacred sword <Hungry Fang>.

The person who haven't gotten used to the frank desire recognizes the craving as irregular and will completely reject it unconsciously.

The current Levia and Shironeko is exactly like that, their body is unconsciously showing signs of separating themselves from the sword.

If possible I want them to get used to the magic power from this lump of cravings, but even Levia who has seen it several times now is affected like this, so I'll put off all of that for now.

"Now it's---time to eat"

I stabbed Mineko's body very deeply with <Gluttony>. There was not even a single sensation of going through flesh, my sword simply penetrated the girl's body.

Shironeko opened her eyes wide and looked at me, but I kept **eating the curse**.

When Mineko's curse is fading, <Gluttony>'s stomach swelled. The mouth went around until every corner in her body and ate until the curse runs out completely.

<Gluttony>... Official name being <Hungry fang> is, I seem to have repeated a lot of times, but with its meaning as it is, **eats everything**.

From inorganic substances to organic matter, from gas to liquid, magic power or mental strength... to life itself---

(It really doesn't look like I'll come to like this)

I thoroughly think so, looking at my sacred sword or demon sword crunching the strong curse as if it was nothing.

It's too unreasonable. You can call this thing that eats up anything that comes in front of its eyes, a lump of unreasonableness.

This thing that eats without concerns of it being righteous or evil. Do I, who is more

or less summoned as a Hero, have the right to use it I wonder...?

---Well, I'll use it though.

Not using a useful item is being stupid, like pearls thrown before swine.

Eat shit to being Hero-like.

So I'm aware of the inhumanities.

[---You have unreasonable power that can carry out your will, what are you doing by not using it? You should wield it more freely.]

"...To think I actually recalled the words of the guy who placed the curse himself here..."

The face of the crossdressing bastard, who similarly has an unreasonable power like me, emerged in my mind.

In order to blow away that guy who shows a smile that's inedible even for <Gluttony>, I ate up the entire curse at the very end, from the top of the head to the tip of the toes, without leaving a single trace of it---



"Wow... My body is light..."

"Is your condition fine?"

"It's extremely fine. I feel full of strength all over my body!"

It's several minutes since then. With the curse completely eaten up, the phenomenon of Mineko's body being weakened stopped. Her decreased physical strength was regained to an extent by making her drink some recovery potion, now she's recovered enough that she doesn't feel pain from getting up and walking around.

"I'm glad for you desu... Mineko... I am really... Uuu"

"Oh really! Don't cry so much big sis!"



勇者セツ
須崎 雪

海神
リヴァイア

あんまり泣かないでお姉ちゃん

よかったです
……本当に……ううっ



妹
獣人
ミネコ

獣人
シロネ

姉

The now lively Mineko stroked Shironeko's head who is sobbing with joy and began cuddling her.

Still, no matter how I look at it, I can only see them as older and younger sister in reverse, is it really not good if I retort to that at any cost?"

"Thank you for your hard work"

"Yeah..."

Levia lined up beside me and gave me words of appreciation.

She nonchalantly took my hand and half of her magic power she parted with was added to mine.

Warm magic power flowed into me, my slightly fatigued appearance flew somewhere far away by that comfort.

---This time, <Gluttony>'s stomach is somehow filled up to its sixth portions after it finished feeding on the curse. With that guy's curse being that strong, I guess it meant it was firmly rooted.

It helped me a lot that the remaining portion could be supplemented with half of my magic power, but I may have to set up a countermeasure to the curse next time.

For <Gluttony>... <Hungry Fang>, beside the compensation for not stopping until it has a full stomach, there is a loss of effectiveness when it becomes full.

It's natural. No matter what you say, it's stomach is full after all... furthermore, you can't stuff it in.

When you think about it from that weakness, it means that it can eat at most two curses of this scale.

It can become hungry again in a just a few minutes, but if, for example, the situation is in the middle of combat, you won't have that extra time.

If there's a method to allow us to avoid the curse somehow or another, it'll be settled... well, it won't go that smoothly.

“---Well, we can now think about the troublesome part I guess... How about that, Shironeko. With this there's no need for you to associate with that bastard Touma, you won't attack us anymore right?”

“Yes desu... *sniff* (gusu)... Thank you very much desu...”

“There there” Mineko said while she strokes Shironeko's back, who was giving us her thanks while crying away.

With this they will spend their time peacefully again I guess. It'll be nice if they won't be used by strange groups again though...

In any case, we'll be going back to beast king's place. I'm a bit tired, so shall we go on a trip tomorrow---

“---Troubling isn't it, getting this into this mood as if saying the issue is settled like this...”

“Ugh-! Big sis, watch out!”

“Eh?”

In the corner of my sight... in just an instant, a shape of something flying was reflected. There were several of this something which had a black luster. Those things rushed on towards Shironeko and Mineko by this form of perfected surprise attack.

It was fatally unexpected that even Levia and I couldn't instantly react.

Even so, I reflexively swung my arm and knocked down several of these things. When it clashed onto the ground, the sound it carried was a metallic clank.

I turned my consciousness towards the remaining of those things that didn't hit me rather than the sound.

Shironeko was in a blind spot and Mineko was in a place I could barely see.



Mineko pushed away Shironeko. The things that went towards the girls, at the same time Shironeko collapsed onto the floor...

---ran **very deeply** into Mineko's chest.

"---ugh! Outside!"

I shout without thinking. I was trembling considerably from being unexpectedly hit by a complete surprise that was made possible from the distraction.

I jump out from the window from where those black something flew into.

I moved to prevent the second wave, but fortunately there was no second wave.

The time was still far from noon, on the ground that was illuminated by the sun that still hasn't reached the peak, that person was there.

"Hey... So it was you, the one who threw those dangerous things"

"That is true though? Ah, I wasn't able to kill Shironeko... even though I meant to take care of the useless..."

A black robed woman answered. Her hair that looked like it's black piled on top of black was tied to the back and on her head there were dog ears. Her mouth was concealed by a black cloth, so her face can't be seen.

"You are our master's beloved person... as for me, I hate you so much I may go mad from jealousy, but... By my master's order, I plan to constrain you and take you away."

"Who is gonna get caught, you pitch black bitch. That guy you call master, I'm gonna smash his woman looking face 'till it's warped, so look forward to that"

"...I shall take back my words, allow me take you back after I punish you until you don't know that idea of yours anymore."

The woman took off her robe and showed the whole picture.

A footwear similar to fishnet stockings from black clothes, the cloth concealing her mouth appeared to be tied on the back of her head with the remaining cloth floating to her back.

Isn't that the well known japanese... thingamajig?

“---<Kunoichi> Kuroinu... here I go.”

Introduced in Japan, the type of people whose forte is assassination and espionage--
-the ninja.

Chapter 34

Maritime

“Gafuh...” (act of coughing blood)

“Mineko!”

Blood started flowing from Mineko’s mouth, staining red the shape of her mouth.

Sticking on the girl’s chest were kunais, weapons frequently used by one that is called a ninja.

The caltrop shaped blade is pierced halfway in and the clothes on her chest was dyed red.

Throwing up blood from the mouth means that there should likely be a large internal wound.

(Not good...! I can’t do anything with a wound this deep...!

Seeing the pierced kunai, Levia resented her lack of power in recovery magic.

The girl who could only heal bruises and gashes at most, is currently only able to gaze at Mineko.

“...Only Setsu can...!”

There is nothing Levia could do for Mineko; however, Setsu could do it with recovery magic in any way he liked.

Even if it was impossible to use <Gluttony>, he should be able to heal this wound.

Leaving behind Shironeko, who completely changed from shedding tears of happiness to that of sorrow, Levia jumped out from the window.

To save Mineko, there was no choice but to have the black clothed woman and Levia fight and Setsu to go into the girl's treatment.

"Setsu! Step aside!"

At the same time Levia's feet were planted onto the ground, she fired off her magic.

An enormous water cannon that could swallow a person of a small build was heading towards Setsu and the black clothed person.---



"Hah!"

"Woah"

With one grand swing with Kuromaru, I knock down all the kunais and throwing stars that came flying from every angle.

"Aren't you an extremely violent man... gh!"

"Says the woman who has a more fitting character for that!"

Since a while ago this woman's attacks are exactly at the freaking places I have a hard time handling them.

She also goes cutting in my thoughts by attacking me, so it's hard to move about.

(Shall I just ignore them instead and just mow her down?)

I don't particularly get much damage at the places I'm hit, but... as expected I won't just forgive her if she accidentally hits my eyeballs and such.

I wonder if my opponent knew, she's been aiming at my face once out of many.

She really has a disgusting way of fighting.

Persistent and disgusting.

"Tch... So I have to prepare for damage and---"

“---Setsu! Step aside!”

I reflexively leap to the side.

While a water spray was spreading from my back after jumping, a gigantic water bullet was flying.

“Wha... kuh... <Flame Art-Heavy wall>!”

The water bullet that is heading straight towards Kuroinu hit the wall of flames that appeared right in front of the woman’s eyes and scattered about water vapours around the area.

Because of the water vapours drifting like smoke, I couldn’t see Kuroinu.

In exchange, the one who is now beside me is Levia, who is most likely the one who shot the water bullet just now.

“Doing something so dangerous... what are you going to do if it hits me, huh?”

“You won’t die from it even if I hit you, right? More importantly, I’m substituting you, okay? I’ll have you go treat Mineko, since I’ll be taking care of the puppy over there.”

I look over my shoulder and look inside Shironeko’s house.

I can tell there’s signs of bleeding even from this distance and I’m sure that’s what made Levia jump out with a serious look.

“...I guess. Leave Mineko to me, so I’ll leave the dog to you, okay? It looks like she can use magic and some weird technique though...”

The flame wall from before was different from the flame magic in the way the magic power is poured when using it.

That it’s not a normal magic I’m sure of but... well, I can’t think of anything other than ninjutsu skills that ninja’s use, but does this world have ninjutsu though?

“I understand that, you know. You go over to Mineko’s side quickly, since I’ll quickly take down the puppy.”

“...Don’t be careless okay? The you right now is---”

“Who do you think you’re talking to? I am the Sea god aren’t I? Just because the dog can use a little strange technique doesn’t mean I will be defeated. Can you quickly go now?”

“*sigh*... I got it, okay.”

I turn around with my heel at that place and headed back to the house.

I don’t think Levia will be defeated, but it will be a hard fight I guess.

In order to cure Mineko’s wounds quickly and go to Levia’s aid, I jump into Shironeko’s house from the window.

“Hey Shironeko! Move your hands aside!”

“...Eh?”

Holding Mineko in her arms, Shironeko grabbed her body because she was trying to stop her blood somehow.

“Gofuh...”

“Mineko!”

At that moment, an even larger amount of blood spew out of her mouth and dirtied our clothes.

I put my hand on the wound that was overflowing with blood and begin my treatment.

“<Perfect Heal>!”

A strong light dwelled within the hand I held down and it filled Mineko’s body.

The wound is more serious than I had thought.

Her heart is safe, but one of her lungs was damaged very badly.

(To make matters worse, did she actually add <Regeneration Obstruction>... ugh! This is going to take a while...)

The ability called Regeneration Obstruction is, as its name implies, an ability which slows recovery of the inflicted wound.

It can work with a sword clad in magic power and it's even an assassin's indispensable skill.

Although originally, <Perfect Heal> would heal you instantly as long as you're not dead, these wounds are merely gradually closing at several hundred times the normal speed, too slow compared to the usual several thousand times the speed.

"This must make that pup... SS rank I guess"

Attaching this level of <Regeneration Obstruction> to these weapons is evidence of her considerable ability.

If that's how it is, then the current Levia is going to have a hard time, what with her current abilities being S rank.

"Setsu! Will Mineko be fine desu!?"

"..."

I guess sending this girl to help Levia now won't be useful...

"I won't let her die as long as I can do this, you know... So shut up and just watch."

Either way, if I can quickly heal Mineko then I will go back her up.

It really takes several minutes until these wounds finish recovering but---

(Go all out until then, okay... Levia)



(---or something like that... is what he must be thinking I suppose)

Levia was predicting Setsu's current thoughts while repelling the kunais flying from the other side of the steam with her palms clad in water.

"...You. I can assume you are the sea god Leviathan from the nobleness of this magic power however... Why are you in such a place? And why are you lending a hand to that man? Shouldn't the sea god be meant to be in the sea?"

"Look, I have a debt to pay to that man. Moreover, it is pitiful seeing the sisters separated like that. And lastly, it's not like I would particularly be in the sea you see--where I am is the sea is what I mean."

The steam cleared up and Levia launched water bullets from her hand towards Kuroinu whose figure was revealed.

Kuroinu ran while throwing kunais and approached the girl while repelling the bullet sized water bullet with those kunais.

"Frontal attacks and such will not hit me!"

"Ugh!"

Kuroinu shortened the distance in an instant and slashed at Levia's throat who had her eyes opened wide.

She thought blood spraying out will decide the outcome, but what gushed out of her throat was a transparent liquid.

"Body substitution!?"

"It's the same with Setsu... you can't simply decide the outcome directly from the front!!"

"---Ugh!"

As Levia's body made of water repelled the attack, the real body right behind it unleashed a palm heel on Kuroinu's abdomen.

“Gah...”

“And another”

“Don’t... underestimate me!”

The other hand was set out, but that was defended with crossed arms.

However,

(Wha-, it’s heavy...!)

Levia’s palm heel had considerably more power than Kuroinu imagined.

The girl couldn’t kill off the impact and was thrown greatly back as her body was bent.

(To think the Sea God would have this much power on the ground...)

Kuroinu received an even more shocking reality at the same time.

If one would name a dreadful part of the Sea God, then it would be the attack with an overwhelming mass using the infinitely existing water of the sea.

Furthermore, if the Sea God is submerged in the ocean water or some kind of principle, her might would increase.

One ought to be vigilant from attacks with water as well as the attacks with her tail unleashed from the body of the dragon that attained superhuman strength.

But that is a talk for when she is submerged in ocean water.

With this ground currently not containing any ocean water, the Sea God was not supposed to have this much strength.

“Why are you... hm?”

Kuroinu bent her body, put her hands on the ground and with a backflip, she prepared her stance as she lands.

At that time she slightly grasped an uncomfortable feeling; she felt something from her feet on the ground that is clearly different from until some time ago.

“This is... it’s muddy!?”

“Oh my, you actually noticed haven’t you?”

Her feet sunk into the ground from her body weight and a light brown muddy water seeped out from below.

And what stimulated Kuroinu’s canine nose was a fragrant **odour of salt water** from that water.

“See, if there’s no seawater here, then I can just make it and spread it around. I wonder, why hadn’t I notice this kind of method up until now?”

That is absurd---

Kuroinu regretted that she had made a mistake in measuring the ability of the existence that is called a god.

The mud was already spread all around and the seeping water is rapidly increasing in volume.

“With this, it should be fine even if it is **restored** a little, isn’t that right?”

Saying that, Levia’s figure changed.

Scales emerged on her arm and from her shoulders, the scaled arm transformed into irregular shaped dragon arm.

A certain power can be felt from those large blue arm that had slightly disrupted the balance of the slender woman.



“Waiting for Setsu’s assistance is unnecessary. In the name of the Sea god, I will take you down right here.”

Kuroinu trembled in an instant from the intensity of the sea god, who spoke that sentence in the form of a girl.

Chapter 35

Sea God VS Black Dog

“Hah!”

“Kuh...”

Kuroinu avoided the arm swung by the Seagod by leaping back.

However---

(This, this is nonsense...!)

Having her balance broken because of the wind generated by that gigantic arm, Kuroinu fell down shamefully, dirtying her body with the muddy soil.

No, it is already difficult to call that muddy.

The clear ocean water has already filled up to the knee, to the point it felt like walking is tough.

“Look at you! Trying to challenge I, the Sea god Levia at that level is laughable!”

“Tch... Don’t underestimate me! <Water art–Prison>!”

Kuroinu stood up, put her hands in the water and poured magic power into it.

Upon doing so, the water around Levia rose up and in an instant the prison completely enclosed her.

“Special magic power is kneaded in my <Ninjutsu>. Opposing it with magic won’t be that simple you see.”

“Hmm...”

“And then---<Lightning Art-Sting>!”

A lightning spear materialized crackling and charged in Kuroinu’s hand.

As she kicked the bottom ground within the rising water level and leaped up, she threw that spear towards Levia.

“I have heard that ocean water conducts electric shocks easily! With this it’s over even for you, Sea god!”

“...I’m being underestimated aren’t I.”

Not even showing any concerns over the approaching spear, Levia took a swing with the arm which didn’t change into a strange shape.

In doing so, the water prison broke its shape without even the slightest resistance and started enveloping the girl’s surroundings in a vortex.

“Ocean water is like a part of me. I don’t even need to use something like magic in order to manipulate it.”

Coiling like a vortex, the ocean water moved and spread itself to catch the spear.

The spear assaulting from the opposite side lost its power to that thick layer of water and became static inside the water.

“Wha-... but if there is even a little water, then the electric current should---”

“Didn’t I just tell you that the ocean water moves the way I want?”

Levia’s surrounding was... filled with dried ground.

As if giving the impression of being fenced, the water couldn’t penetrate that parched land.

“If you take away the water that’s muddied from the ocean water, it would dry, wouldn’t it?”

“Ugh...”

“Look, this time you are the one in danger aren’t you?”

“...Hah!?”

Kuroinu had realized.

The fact that the spear was emitting electricity even at that present time.

And... the fact the current will also be flowing in the ocean water under her feet.

“This is bad...! <Flame art–Giant Cannon>!”

An enormous furiously blazing sphere was dropped onto the ocean water from Kuroinu’s hand.

The water vapor wrapped up the woman together with the sound of evaporating water.

Her field of vision was blocked, but when she relied on intuition and stretched out her legs, her feet would touch the ground and she would be able to successfully leap in mid-air once again.

“Ooh... You dried the ground with fire didn’t you? You handled that well, despite digging your grave with your own technique.”

“What are you making that calm looking face for!?”

Despite losing her cool, Kuroinu concentrated and threw a kunai.

Not long ago she lost her cool due to Levia’s strength being beyond her imagination and ended up releasing single attacks like she was being strangled, but Kuroinu originally possessed some composure due to her occupation that is called a ninja and had gradually been regaining her pace.

“Hmph”

As she knocked away the approaching kunai by manipulating the water, Levia turned her gaze towards Kuroinu.

However, the woman had already vanished from midair.

“W-!?”

She reflexively knocked away several kunais that suddenly came swooping down beside her with her arm that had returned to her original form.

Subsequently, a kunai flew from a different direction and Levia twisted her body to dodge it.

Again from another direction and then again from another direction came Kunais flying towards her.

However, Kuroinu’s figure was nowhere to be seen and she could only hear the slight **sound of kicking the water.**

“Tch! Quite the shrewd one aren’t you!”

Levia dodged in the beginning, but she grew impatient from the exchange of kunais that didn’t show any indication of ending at all, mowing down all of them at once with her dragon arm.

“How careless of you!”

“Ugh-!”

Kuroinu leaped into the opening that was created from the stiffness caused by the instant after she finished swinging her arm.

Levia was surprised by the girl who was thrusting her kunai towards her defenseless body, further delaying her response.

However, was that, as expected, an aspect of the Sea god?

Before she could think she moved by instinct, keeping her still human arm in front of her body in order to defend against it.

If there were any lacking aspects in this response, then it would be the one where her dragon arm still hadn’t sprung back---

“Guh...”

Deeply stuck into the place closer to her wrist than her elbow, the kunai moved forward without stopping, reaching Levia’s flank.

If it weren’t for the guarding with her arm, how many of her internal organs would it have damaged?

In that respect, it could be said that her guard was useful just for the fact she was able to stop no more than its tip.

“So you could even defend against this... however!”

“Gih...”

Kuroinu twisted the stabbed kunai with all her strength.

Each time blood gushed out of her arm and an even larger amount of red liquid was streaming from the flank under that arm.

If she had her dragon form, then she would have been able to let this degree of injury end with a mere bruise.

However, that is different when in a human form.

Nearly losing her consciousness due to the intense pain emitted by her arm and flank, Levia strenuously gritted her teeth and endured it.

“Not admitting defeat are you... ngh! In that case, I’ll go even dee---”

“Don’t you get... carried away!”

“Ugh-!”

Enduring the pain, Levia swung down her dragon arm.

Unable to bear it, Kuroinu released the kunai from her hand and took evasive action, but because of the force of the downswing that was unleashed from a sense of desperation, she was greatly blown away to the back.

“Now you’ve done it, you mutt... ugh”

“You’re saying quite a lot of rude things aren’t you?”

“The one who is rude is you though... I am a god you know?”

Levia pulled out the pierced kunai while bearing the pain and tossed it aside.

And then she manipulates the ocean water at her feet, applying it to her wounds.

Upon doing so, bubbles spurted out of her wounds and those openings started to gradually shrink.

“...Aren’t you being troublesome, adding regeneration obstruction there.”

The girl who boasted absolute strength in the ocean could cure the injuries she received on her body just by submerging herself in ocean water.

Although that does not reach <Perfect Heal>, her self healing ability rivaled those of the undead type monsters.

Even if she possessed such miraculous self healing ability, it could not overcome the regeneration obstruction.

Seeing her own body whose best effort was only to stop the blood at best, Levia breathed a sigh.

“At any rate, you are quite fast aren’t you? I could barely follow you with my eyes.”

“I am surprised you were able to follow me you know. High speed movement is my specialty you see.”

Said Kuroinu as she **stood on top of water**.

It appeared that her shoes had some sort of secret, but Levia didn’t seem to have realized that.

“So you can also do that?”

“An ability to adapt that is worthy of a ninja is necessary, so yes.”

“I don’t know well this thing you call a ninja, but... for now it is my turn isn’t it?”

“W-! What!?”

From the surface of the sea Kuroinu was standing on, water that was wriggling like tentacles coiled around her ankles.

Even if she tried to separate from that location, the water coiled around her didn’t move as if it became like glue.

“Violent dogs will be tied on a leash... And then here, drink this.”

Levia calmly put up her dragon arm to the sky.

Upon doing so, the water on the ground started to gather just above Kuroinu, producing a gigantic water sphere.

“This is... I am in trouble.”

Kuroinu showed a face of resignation to the ruthless size of that water sphere.

The water restraining her legs showed absolutely no signs of loosening and there was no time left to take evasive actions anymore if it were to loosen---

“---<Sea Fall>”

Chapter 36

An interesting story

A specially large water sphere had struck onto the restrained Kuroinu. The sphere that raised a large splash together with a thunderous roar, became ripples and rocked the surface of the muddy water.

“---You’ve put up with that rather well, didn’t you.”

“*heave* ... *pant* ...”

Kuroinu, who was supposed to be in the center of it, was safe. She was considerably blown away from the place she had been standing some time ago, but she had no large injuries upon receiving the impact that could have crushed the human body without remorse. Levia herself had put quite an amount of power into her skill, so she couldn’t hide her surprise about the fact she did not take her down.

(Ugh...! I put my <Water art> in effect at the last moment, so it went well... That ended up taking away all my stamina...)

Just before Kuroinu collided with the water sphere, she narrowly invoked an <art>. The skills she specializes in, <arts> like <fire art> and <water art> are so to speak magic for the purpose of opposing magic. For instance, in contrast to the <Flame Lance> magic that shoots out a spear of fire, <Art> has a skill called <Fire Art-Sting> which would first produce the fire, alters it into the shape of a spear and then shoots it out. What is important here is that in contrast to magic where two processes are required, which is producing a spear of fire and shooting said spear, <Art> requires three processes; producing the fire, shaping it to a spear and then shooting it out. Looking at this, <Art> would not look superior. However, <Art> has a strong advantage which is large enough to make it free from the handicap in that process.

That strong point is the fact that when the <fire> is operated... in other words just

when <Fire Art–Sting> is shot, she does not have to use the fire she herself have produced.

If there is fire in your surroundings, it would be possible for her to manipulate that and produce a spear out of it.

And so, **the magic shot by your opponent** is no exception to that.

Such as manipulating her opponent's flames and firing it back, letting the produced water sphere burst above her head, fighting back their lightning by letting them self-destruct; it's an ability that demonstrates immense power against magic.

This time, Kuroinu used <Art> and succeeded in slightly shifting the water sphere's falling point.

Although Levia's skill was magic, it was an attack using the sea water ruled by her and as a result, she was unable to manipulate it perfectly and avoiding a direct hit was the best she could do.

After Kuroinu let her body accumulate damage from receiving the impact of the water rivaling that of an explosion despite it not being a direct hit, she somehow managed to stand up, gasping.

Her knees were shaking, but her eyes hadn't lost her vigor.

However, it was still a fact that there was no way in avoiding her current state.

(Kuh... At this rate I won't be able to receive the satisfaction in dealing with Shironeko, to say nothing of capturing that man alive in accordance to my liege's commands...)

"I am a little peeved that you weren't killed, but... it looks like it is already over."

Turning towards Kuroinu who didn't move after standing up, Levia stuck out her hand.

A fine grain of water can be seen in the palm of that hand and she planned to shoot that to her heart.

"I am sorry to tell you this, but I won't be doing something like not robbing someone of their life like Setsu does. So properly... die okay?"

Drops of water rushed out, focusing on a single point.

Kuroinu slowly looked at those drops flying at high speed, like it was in slow motion.

(I have been defeated haven't I... I can truly not move my body)

It was already too late for <Art> as well.

Without trying anything, she looked at the water bullets being sucked up into her chest.

“---Hey hey hey, don't you get done in, you dog girl.”

“Wha-...”

Kuroinu raised her voice in surprise.

When she thought she had heard someone suddenly calling out to her, the water bullets approaching until in front of her eyes were knocked down to the surface of the sea.

Before they noticed, the owner of the voice had stood between the two, carrying a two meter long spear in his flank.

“You... why?”

“Heh, been a little while, oh great Sea god.”

Levia was surprised. That man called out to her like he knew her.

Which wasn't surprising since, although he wasn't well known to Levias, he was a man who was at the very least an acquaintance to her.

“I see... we were deceived, weren't we.”

“Oh, please don't call it something disgraceful like being deceived. I told ya the story out of kindness, ya know? You were able to save the two cat sisters thanks to that, am I right? And besides, I've only let ya stay in the **inn** after all.”

The owner of the inn---that man who had offered information to Setsu and Levias, was now standing in her way.

Due to him showing a bold smile, it made his uncanniness look better.

“So, does that mean you also came here aiming for Shironeko and her sister's life? Depending on your answer, I shall submerge you as well, do you understand?”

“Ooh, scary! If the Sea god says it, then it won't just become wordplay, huh... Well, don't worry about that, my objective ain't those cats.”

“What then?”

“Ya should have become aware of it a little right?---It’s you, Sea god Levia.”

Upon hearing her own name Levia increased her wariness and glared at the man in silence.

“Ya seems to have seriously guessed it, seeing that ya ain’t surprised... Well, kind of obvious if ya understand yer own value.”

“...How much do you know?”

“Don’t have the obligations to tell ya but... I know as far as how to use **your** existences.”

Said the man, still showing a bold smile.

Levia glared at him and bit on her molars from seeing the bad situation.

“Well then... let’s have ya come with us if ya don’t wanna get any painful experience--”

“---That’s an interesting conversation you’re having. Let me in on it, will you?”

“!?”

The instant the man stepped forward to take Levia with him, a large splash of water rose up along with a black flash.

The man who instantly leapt away with a backstep succeeded in avoiding a direct hit of that something, but he took the splash of water with his whole body and his field of vision was blocked.

“Oh Cra---”

“Take this!”

A black ray that cut off the soaring sprays of water cut up the man’s body in surprise and made the splash red. He distorted his face in pain, but he took distance with another big backstep before the follow-up came.

“Tch... already done with her treatment?”

“Yeah, thanks to you”

Who stood there when all of the splashes fell down, was Setsu who was supposed to have gone to treat Mineko just some time ago.

Blood was streaming from the stomach of the guy who was the innkeeper. I planned to cut at it a little deeper, but his physical ability was better than I expected. He did get some damage, but he looks far from being incapable of fighting I guess.

“So you really were allies to those black robes, I couldn’t help thinking it was suspicious you know.”

“What was that? You want to say you were on guard since the beginning?”

“Yeah. Because your lines were simply suspicious.”

[At any rate, Shironeko won’t be able to taste freedom as long as she’s threatened by her---]

“The time we were listening to your story, we should’ve been talking about this unknown black robe and despite that you pointed out **her** gender to me. Of course you probably have checked her gender under some circumstances, but it was reason enough to be suspicious of you.”

To put it simply, it’s like that [information only the offender can know] thing from detective dramas and stories.

Talking too much so as to not make them turn doubtful eyes on you and unintentionally...

“To think he killed him by striking his head...”

...ending up digging his grave with something like that, something like that I think.

“Hah haa... so it’s like that. That was my bad... I should’ve been a little more careful with my talk. But what about it? Even if ya got cautious, ya let me get near ya didn’t ya?”

“It’s got nothing to do with that. Either way I’m smashing you here. Whatever

happened, the result will be the same, you know.”

I swing Kuromaru two to three times and set it up in suspension with one hand. I confirm that Kuroinu who got her stamina shaved off can't move anymore and point the tip of my sword towards the man.

“Well then... come here”

This instance, in this instance I thrust the large sword Kuromaru and the man releases an attack, putting his weight on the spear---

Chapter 37

Crisis

“Guh...”

The man's spear rebounded along with his arm.

The fact that it was repelled by my blow and didn't separate from his hand was unexpected, but it doesn't change the fact that there's an opening.

I send him flying with a kick in his defenseless abdomen and he rolled on the sea whose water level has fallen due to Levia stopping the fight.

“Wh- what nonsensical superhuman strength...”

“I get that often. Actually, do you even have time to rest?”

In no time I fire a <Flying blade> towards the man who stood up gasping.

“Wha----Guooooo!?”

The man held his spear horizontally to receive that blade where I held back my strength moderately, but he couldn't stop the attack and was forced to fall back with the soil stuck on his feet and all.

That spear of his is pretty good.

There doesn't seem like there were any weapons that could catch my flying blade right from the front.

And the man is also quite a powerful guy.

If levia fights him like that, then she'll probably be defeated along with the mutt.

“Ain't doing half bad, you. What's your name?”

“Haah... haah... tch, it's Saiga”

“Hmm... I'm... Well, you already know me even if I don't tell you.”

Shironeko also knew of me, so I guess all of these guys know me too.

They're the subordinates of that shitty hero after all.

"So, what're you gonna do now Saiga? It's not like I won't overlook this if you take that black dog with you and pull back though."

But of course I'll have them leave behind information and just punish them a little so they won't easily attack us after this.

"If you allow me to say... gh!"

"Leave it, Kuroinu! It's different if the two of us are in top form, but we're gonna fall together in this situation..."

Looks like the situation is clear on Saiga's side.

As for Kuroinu's side... yeah.

Those eyes are those who have completely pledged her allegiance towards that guy. Now that I think about it, I remember there were many of those guys like her at the time I was in Destinea.

Especially that princess had it the worst.

These kinds of people would use any tricks up their sleeve to accomplish their commands.

(It's going to look troublesome in the distant future I guess... I was thinking about sending them back beaten the hell out of, including a declaration of war towards Touma, but... how about I just beat the hell out of them and imprison them?)

Such disturbing thoughts crosses my mind.

But letting those guys loose who would probably do anything if ordered, even suicide bombing is, well...

"Saiga!? We haven't accomplished our orders yet, you understand!? Withdrawing despite that is..."

"Are ya stupid!? Ain't we just talking about pulling back once!?"

"We will be keeping our liege waiting in that case! I have to erase those useless sisters here now..."

Useless sisters means... Shironeko and her sister I guess.

It means Kuroinu's target isn't me but those two, but personally I feel she could postpone the useless sisters thing.

I bet decent information wasn't given to the woman who was only threatened with her sister as hostage either way, so there's little risk that information will be passed on to us.

"Well, if you're going for it then I'll be your opponent though... what's it gonna be?"

I thrust Kuromaru and show a sharp look towards the two.

Kuroinu shivered once and stepped back and I hear a gasping sound from Saiga. It seems like they ended up getting quite the cold feet.

"Wa- wait... I'm pulling back. Let me pull back. We ain't fighting you no more."

"What, is that so? In that case, answer me some questions a bit. I am **overlooking this** after all, you see."

I say it while stressing the overlooking part.

I'm gonna let them feel some humiliation as much as possible.

"-!"

"I'm telling you, lay it off, girl! Wha- what is it you wanna hear?"

Saiga held down Kuroinu who lost her cool and was about to spring at me. Aren't you glad you stopped her?

I was really planning to take one of her arms if she really sprung at me.

"First off, I want to know your aims. What is Touma aiming for?"

"That, that person's aim is to erase the demons and beastmen from this world."

...Huh?

The hell is that about?

I just got told something so outrageous I now regret asking it quite lightly, you know that?

"Wha- what is he doing that for?"

"That person told me it was for your sake... annihilating the races who have seduced

you Setsu and living together with you in a world with no nuisances left or something like that...”

“...That rotten yandere bastard...”

For that reason he’s going to bump off two of the three large races?
He’s going off somewhere like always...

(What to do... Now that it comes to this, I’m getting worried about Desastre and the others in the demon continent. If I do this badly, then the bunch of black robes could go and attack them while I’m here in the beastmen continent... that’s why our side will face danger if I let them go. Is there no choice but to believe in the strength of Desastre and the others and hope they will get through this?)

By no means is there any proof that they will attack immediately, but sooner or later the problem will stand in our way I guess.
I have to contact Elka’s group somehow and ask them for some cooperation in---

“...Keh! Don’t ya go showing us an opening! <Transfer stone>!”
“W-! What!?”

The moment I turned away my attention with my thoughts, Saiga took out a shining stone from his bosom and crushed it.

The moment it broke, lights hit the two of them and their bodies flashed.

<Transfer stone> is, like its name implies, a stone with transfer magic entrapped within.

If you break it, you can warp to a place you have in mind which is similar to the transfer magic.

“Tch! So you were carrying that kind of thing”

“Hah! What a slack! Finally, let me tell ya something good! While you guys were carelessly paying attention towards us like this, the gangs on the human continent are already starting to attack the demon continent!”

“---Wha!?”

“It’s about time for their attack to start! We’re going to their place, see ya!”

“Wait!... Tch”

The smugly smiling Saiga disappeared along with the light and the figure of Kuroinu behind him was also gone.

All that was remaining on the ground where the water is completely pulled away were those footprints of theirs.

What I’ve done is get taken by surprise and letting them go in the end and such.

I think hard about what that guy had said at the end.

(Right now... wait, that’s a bit too fast you know? Is what he said true...? If it is then that’s bad... I’m not sure I can be in time on foot. It’ll take more than half a day if I get on Levia and I’m sure things will get in our way before we get on land. Even if I scatter about those hindrances, it’ll also take time to get to Evil Barrow from there...)

It’s hopeless if I only look at the situation.

The chances are big that I won’t make it in time even if Desastre and the others fight bravely.

Shall I borrow the transfer magic circle from the beast king? No, I’ll be completely spent on magic power if I do that.

“What to do... Seriously, what should I do...”

I keep puzzling it over in my head which is unlike me.

Fuck... So I really have no choice other than the transfer magic circle.

I guess the problem with magic power will work out somehow if I just drink a potion.

“Levia! Let’s go until the beast king for a bit and---wait, what’s wrong?”

Even though I called out to her, Levia was looking towards the distant ocean without saying anything.

She’s been silent since a while ago, could it be because she’s been staring at the sea the whole time?

“Hey Levia...”

“Sorry Setsu. I don’t think I can go with you to the beast king’s place.”

Levia muttered so without looking this way.

“I’m---thinking about going off on my own for a while.”

Chapter 38

At that time

A few days before Setsu and Levia landed on the beastmen continent, the classmates who remained in the human country Destinea had gone to a dungeon called <Cavern of Sorrow>.

Dungeons are towers, forests or caverns that can be divided by strata or depths. When it was created and by who has not yet been explained to this day and the origins of the treasures generated within the dungeons too haven't been explained.

If one were to speak about what is known is that monsters of specific ranges of strength appear inside each dungeon and in the deepest part lies in wait the strongest monster of the dungeon.

The fact that their strength is settled within a fixed range is fairly important and thanks to that, one could determine the difficulty level of the dungeons.

This <Cavern of Sorrow> is A rank difficulty level.

Considering that the highest difficulty level is SSS, an A rank dungeon, which is one step away from S rank that's designated as inhuman, could not be captured without the corresponding ability.

"Oh hot boiling lava! Burn away my foes and melt their lives! <Magma Ball>!"

"Gugyaa!"

The red, boiling hot ball Endou fired hit a wolf-type monster and ended its life by burning its body away.

"Great as always, Endou!"

"Got them all in one hit 'till now didn't you!"

“Ha, ha, ha! It’ll be like this if I deal with em!”

While raising a slow laughter, Endou once again fired a magma ball and ended the life of another monster.

While Endou’s followers A and B were getting excited once more, a male student was glaring as he fell on his bottom after being burned by the heat of the magma ball when he approached to kill that monster.

“You okay, Nemoto...?”

“Ah hot hot... It’s you Ueda. My bad, but can’t you apply some Heal on me?”

“Sure... Oh healing light <Heal>”

The male student called Ueda applied Heal on the place where his arm was burned.

Fortunately it wasn’t burned that severe, so as a result it could be healed even by Ueda whose healing was not quite his strong point.

“Are okay? Nemoto-kun”

“Oh Kanzaki. Somehow, yeah, thanks to Ueda.”

Near those two, the girl named Kanzaki held out her hand and Nemoto grabbed the hand to stand up.

“I’m glad. Even so, Endou and his gang are getting more and more carried away aren’t they?”

“Yeah, they are... damn, if I was stronger than them...”

The one with the highest ability was Endou if one were to exclude Kouma, the current <Wielder of the sacred sword> and his party.

He had completed several original magic that was evolved from existing magic and each of them were powerful.

Although it will not go as far as unique magic, those were considerably useful in anti-personnel and anti-monster fights.

“We’re going you all! Don’t drag us down, you hear!”

Endou who was in a good mood from being flattered by his entourage, commanded his classmates in this place.

Even when everyone glared at him disgustingly from the bottom of their hearts, it wouldn’t reach him as he advances while laughing loudly.

“Tch... He’s annoying, really.”

“Well, this time we could do it with ease thanks to him, so let’s bear it just for a little while, okay?”

“That may be true if you put it that way, but... *sigh*”

While Nemoto was being pacified by Kanzaki, Ueda, while sighing, followed behind Endou.



“<Rock smash fist>!” (Gansaiken)

On another place, at the labyrinth boasting the difficulty level of S rank, the <Spire of the Emperor>, Kouma’s group was moving forward.

The attack from Jirou, whose natural muscles expanded furthermore due to harsh training, pulverized the body of the Rock Golem.

“Hold on! Don’t go litter the whole place too much with shards, okay!?”

While dodging the fragments of the Rock golem scattering in its surroundings with magnificent agility, Mizuki shook her prideful twin tails with her dagger hand and quickly approached the magician type monster Skull Magician that was standing

further in.

“Teya!”

“Ugiiiiih!”

Mizuki’s dagger seized the base of the skull magician’s throat just before it could brandish its prided wand and unleash a magic. Being a monster with only a dirty robe put on over its bonemade body, the Skull magician’s neck bone which connected the head with its body was pulverized and so it was annihilated without doing anything.

“Me bad, me bad. But did we finish them all with this?”

“Don’t relax yet, watch your surroundings!”

Jirou and Mizuki had relaxed after taking down the enemies, but they once again took on a vigilant posture after Glain’s reprimand as their attendant.

Kouma who had already slain two Skull magicians behind them was already cautious to his surroundings without being told.

“Yuu, you didn’t get any injuries?”

“Eh? Ah... Yup.”

Yuuhi had been behind Kouma the whole time in the form of being protected by him. The battle had already ended before she could do anything herself and so she honestly felt bored.

Rather, the fact is that she had already captured this labyrinth solo in the first place.

They had been continuing to advance for a few hours after entering the labyrinth, but what Yuuhi had been doing was medical treatment for the three who were going through blunders as well as searching for enemies.

Kouma had been fighting throughout these several hours to protect her and had stubbornly not allowed Yuuhi to do battle.

The longer it went on, the more stress she accumulated.

And yet if it was me, I could go through this with just a single hit on each of these dungeon monsters and without any injuries too---she thought.

“? Yuu, are you okay?”

“Ah, sorry! It’s nothing.”

Yuuhi reproved herself for letting it show on her face and once again followed them as they started moving forward.

(*sigh*... Could this not end any faster I wonder)

(...Well, this must be extremely boring for her)

While seeing the girl stifling a yawn, Glain showed a bitter smile.



“Everyone, well done returning here safely!”

The throne room of a certain castle in Destinea, the classmates who have gathered there after returning from the labyrinth are standing straight and listening to the princess.

(This is also going to be boring I guess...)

Unable to be charmed by the girl, Yuuhi ended up feeling bored from the princess’ long story.

She desperately stifled her yawn and when she received a sharp look from Elka standing behind the princess, Yuuhi properly stretched her back.

She recalled the thing about avoiding eye contact with the king and princess, who are prejudiced against Setsu, as much as possible. She put on a sense of reflection and lightly returned a nod.



“---Elka, they were able to capture the Cavern of Sorrow today, is that correct?”

“Yes Your Highness, here is the proof.”

The conversation spontaneously headed towards today’s accomplishments and Elka who had entered the dungeon as their attendant displayed the tusk of the <Dark Hound>, the monster in the deepest level of the dungeon, as proof of completely capturing the dungeon.

“This is splendid, everyone. Well then, how about Sir Kouma’s party?”

“Yes Your Highness. The capture of the dungeon has been complete.”

What Glain displayed was the scale of the Emperor Dragon.

This too was the so-called item drop of the monster in the highest floor of the <Spire of the Emperor>.

“Wonderfull! With this everyone is A rank and above and Kouma’s group is S rank and above in ability!”

Princess Margaret raised a shout of joy, but as a matter of fact, A rank difficulty level is something an A rank adventurer could capture **solo**, so it does not mean that they, who have challenged them in a group, have all reached A rank in ability. Naturally, this is the same for Kouma’s group.

The princess had inadequate understanding in that area.

“...Margaret, it is about time, is it not?”

“! That is so, isn’t it Father... The fact of the matter is that I have gathered all of your tired self here today.”

Being urged by the king sitting on the throne, the princess talked while looking around all of the classmates’ faces.

“The demon army’s soldiers attacking here in the human continent have begun pulling back in order to procure supplies. Thanks to the soldiers who have staked their lives to defend against their landing, the damage on our side were few and simultaneously they have secured the time to train you. I believe it is about time we ought to start our counterattack soon.”

Counterattack---Everyone in that place gulped their breath to that word.

“You should already be aware when I tell you this much, should you not...? We hereby declare we will be raising the signal fire for our counter attack to the enemies of our soldiers, the soldiers who have died a noble death. And finally to the demons and beastmen who have thus far acted violently as they pleased! Departure will be tomorrow at dawn! Until then, please arrange your personal equipment and prepare for battle! That is all!”

“Da- dawn...?”

Somebody muttered.

The sudden declaration of counterattack from the princess.

The war that had approached before their eyes without giving them time to accept had caused unrest to not so few of them.

(...Could this be a chance to escape?)

Except for only one person, Yuuhi.

Chapter 39

Night before Departure

Being abruptly informed of the departure for war tomorrow morning, each of the classmates were in different states. Some becoming flustered and pale, some already calmly considering what they ought to prepare, some showing excitement as they imagine the battlefield they will approach... Each of them spent the last night before departure as they pleased.

“Yuu, can I talk with you for a bit?”

“Hm? Kouma-kun?”

In front of Yuuhi’s private room stood Kouma. After having already decided to consult Elka and Grein on devising the means of escaping at the time of war and also finishing her preparations without taking up time at all, Yuuhi now passed by Kouma towards her room.

“What’s up? Done with preparations?”

“Yeah, preparations are already fine. I felt like wanting to talk with you a little before I go to bed, Yuu.”

Hearing that, Yuuhi grimaced at an angle where he couldn’t see her face.

As a matter of fact, she wanted to quickly go to bed and prepare for tomorrow, but she felt ill-humored from being unable to do so because of Kouma.

For the time being she had him sit in the chair in her room and then she also sat in another chair she had put for herself.

“Hmm... well, okay then, what shall we talk about?”

“How about tomorrow’s matters or something?”

Yuuhi was having problems with that choice for a conversation between a man and a woman in the evening, even as a joke. But she didn't have any particular reason to want to deepen her relationship with Kouma, so she obediently joined that conversation.

"Tomorrow... we are going to kill people, right?"

"..."

Demons and beastmen differ in appearance, but what's inside possesses a proper intention.

According to the conversation, Kouma appeared to be hesitating in the act of killing.

(Huh, so it's that kind of conversation)

Yuuhi was struck by an indescribable feeling of disappointment upon listening to that conversation.

It must be a tedious conversation from the perspective of the girl who was indifferent to fighting demons and beastmen from the beginning.

The point that differs between Kouma who doesn't want to kill and Yuuhi who is indifferent to killing is that Yuuhi would make her move even against, for example, her classmates if it is for the sake of her important person. She who had received training from Elka for the sake of being to Setsu's side had no wavering emotions on killing.

"Hesitating is bad you know, Kouma-kun. You have no choice but to fight if you don't want your important things taken away, you know? Kouma-kun, you're like the leader of the class so yeah. If you hesitate, then everyone will end up unable to move. That's why, do your best okay?"

Yuuhi intended to cheer up Kouma in her own way.

She is gradually growing apart from her classmates, but if Kouma, Jirou and/or Mizuki get injured then she would feel anger in her own way.

“...You’ve really changed since coming to this world, didn’t you Yuu? How do I put this... you’ve become strong.”

“Really?”

Changes in one’s own mental state is not quite something one is able to notice themselves.

Becoming thoroughly tempered by Elka and having aggressively come in contact with parts of this world that by no means could be called beautiful, she had grown resolute and strong before she had noticed.

Kouma was reminded of that and Yuuhi became happy on the inside.

Thinking that she’s getting closer to Setsu, her cheeks became just a little softer.

As a matter of fact, if she were to compare her mental level with Setsu, who had become unable to perform an act of robbing a person of their life, then she had already overtaken him, but Yuuhi wasn’t perceptive enough to even realize that.

“Even though I said you’ve become strong, Yuu... I don’t want you to do anything dangerous. If possible, I’d like you not to depart to war either...”

“...That’s impossible, you know that.”

Kouma’s wish would never come out.

It would likely be possible to use some flexibility if one is at least not in Kouma’s party, but Yuuhi, an important fighting power of the humans, would never be allowed not to go.

“I know. That’s why I will protect you Yuu, even by exchanging this life of mine. That’s why, please don’t leave my side when we’re at the demon continent.”

“Eh... ah, ‘kay”

The eyes of Kouma, who had said those lines as he grabbed Yuuhi’s shoulder and looked straightforwardly in her face, was filled with a feverish gaze.

If an ordinary girl was here, then she is almost likely to become his victim of love.

Regretfully, Yuuhi's heart didn't move even the slightest however...

"Okay then... It's about time for me to go. Let's do our best... in the fight from tomorrow on."

"Kay, good night..."

After Kouma left her room, Yuuhi did not move for a while, worrying about something at that place.

(Don't leave... he said. This is bad, I won't be able to easily separate that way...)

Her plan, which was to leave the war for a while with a proper reason, was rained down a little with Kouma's words just then.

If she were to be near him, then she would be unable to prepare the condition for her to separate from her classmates.

Even if she were to rely on Elka and Grein, the two could not be on the battlefield.

They were able to live in the castle now because there was a condition for them to not participate in the war so as to not let them ally with the other races.

Elka and the others had told her they would ignore those condition and come running when the necessity arises, but as long as the matter of the supposedly dead Hero hasn't cleared up, they could not afford to separate themselves from the castle.

That is to say she could not afford to acquire their assistance for something of this level.

(Well, I can still play that by ear, right?)

"Have no choice but to take things as they are," Yuuhi said and so she crammed all her problems into the corner of her mind in one go and went to her bed. She wasn't so tired from capturing an S rank dungeon, but she was told by Elka to go to bed earlier than usual, so she closed her eyes and slowly submerged in the ocean of sleep.

The next morning, they were seen off by many people and departed Destinea with an army of 5000.

What awaited them was something they were unable to imagine while they were living an ordinary high school life, a battlefield named hell---

Chapter 40

Departure of each

“...That bitch Levia...”

I’m walking on the highway to the town the beast king is living in. The surface of the ground was only maintained evenly and I can see from the weeds showing its face here and there at the edges, that it hasn’t been maintained for a while. Not sure, but this area fits the beastmen race. Now that I think about it, the roads on the human continent is properly paved I guess.

“Even if she was going, I think she should’ve discussed it with me a little more. Right, you girls?”

“E- even if you ask us...”

“We don’t know desu”

Mineko and Shironeko who were walking behind me showed a forced smile.

As for why they are with me and how I parted with Levia, we will have to go back to the scene from yesterday---



I’m thinking about going off on my own for a while---

I asked Levia why when she said that.

“I’m immediately going back to the demon continent. It’s because I can dive when I’m on my own and so I can also arrive there in less than half a day...”

“Can’t you just pick me up? Those guys ain’t weak and they shouldn’t lose in half a day. If I’m there...”

“You aren’t perfect either. As far as I can hear from the conversation, that Hero called

Touma and the black robes are supporting the side of the humans, isn't that right? If it is like that then even you won't know how it will end up, would you Setsu?"

She's got a point... If that bastard Touma's aim really is destroying the demons and beastmen then those guys should be allies of the humans.

If it's like that then I'll end up having to fight both Touma and the relatively strong black robes.

Touma and I... don't have that much difference in strength.

I was able to confirm the fact I'm stronger at the time I killed that guy last time, but at that time I was flat out of magic power and though I wasn't completely in tatters, I did bear quite some injuries.

If at that time I was careless, even a little, then the outcome would probably reverse instantly.

Speaking of carelessness, I just let our enemy just now escape.

The current me didn't have enough grounds to respond with "It's better if I go along."

"You got a point... If my summoned classmates and the black robed bunches join hands, then... they probably won't be stopped even if only I'm there."

All I'm able to do is buy some time I guess.

In that case I can see defeat firsthand.

"But if that's the case then even if you go there it wouldn't even ma---"

"I know that. The fact I won't be as reliable as you even if I go... That's why... won't you let me request of you a little?"

I couldn't do anything but just agreeing to the words of Levia who was saying it masochistic-like.

"Sure..."

“Thanks. The request is... I want you to send in reinforcements from this beastmen continent, Setsu.”

“It’s reinforcements?”

“That’s right. It’s not something you cannot do, right? Given your popularity.”

I guess the beast king will surely move for me if I ask.

Like, he should lend me the maximum of their military strength even if that guy doesn’t move himself.

“But do we have to go that far? If we combine the two major powers, then no matter how many black robes and Heroes there are...”

“---You know I, I want those black robes annihilated... And that boss person called Touma as well.”

“...”

Something similar to hatred was burning in Levia’s eyes.

If it’s like this then she probably won’t be open to discussion I guess.

“You’re not going to tell me those circumstances of yours, are you?”

“Right now is... it’s not something I myself want to talk about. That’s why don’t ask me about it if you can.”

“...Roger that.”

So it’s not something I should press questions about that much, huh... That should be the case right?

Women have many of them right? Things they don’t want to be asked about.

Even men have those so there’s nothing to do about it right, yeah.

“Well, I understand what you want to say. You also told me that you’re relying on me...”

and your wish too so I'll move that way. But now that you're going ahead, protect the demon continent properly, you hear?"

Because it won't be a joke if the war is lost already the moment I arrive.

"I know... Also if you would let me say another selfish thing to you... As soon as possible please, okay?"

I unintentionally burst into laughter at Levia who said that with something like a bitter smile.

Can't be helped then; I have to get through with it faster than usual and go help them.

"Fuh... I got it then. Okay then..."

"Right, see you over there."

"Yeah, see you."

Levia and I returned each other's greetings in a hurry.

I can't waste time here.

We're still in the morning, so let's go to the beast king's place today and tomorrow.

Borrowing the transfer magic circle to the demon continent is going to take three to four days... Endure it please, Levia and Desastre.

"Setsu..."

"Hm? What's up, Shironeko?"

Right when I was about to depart immediately, I stop when I was called out by Shironeko.

"I, would like to thank you desu"

“Me- Me too!”

Shironeko gave me her thanks and Mineko also put up a voice in order to rival her.

If it weren't for this situation, it would be an attractive topic right away, but...

“I'm fine right now, thanking me at another time would be---”

“In that case I will follow you desu.”

“...Huh?”

“Me- me too!”

“...Eh?”



And that's how Levia and I are going off on our own, I take along these two kittens? Two people? And head towards the beast king's place.

It's decided that Shironeko and Mineko will be joining me as fighting power.

It seems that they're going to participate in the war on the demon country as thanks.

As far as I've heard, the two are an outstanding combination and they appear to be quite the powerful people somehow.

They're beings you would have no objections to in becoming your allies.

“The beast king huh... it's been a long time, like really.”

It's been five years already. It was the same at that time with Desastre, but you just can't help getting these feelings can you?

“Setsu, who is stronger desu? You or the beast king?”

“Ah? That's always been me you know?”

“So it's always desu...”

I've responded to that battle loving guy's wishes and competed as many times he likes, but I've never lost to him.

The times I bore injuries was far more often than with the others though.

I never lost, but I've often gotten something like one of my arms stained with blood.

"Well, the beast king is quite strong. Strong enough to want that guy's own strength if possible though..."

If both the demon king and beast king are present, then we should be able to turn the tide in one go even if the progress of war is pushed to one side.

The king's strength isn't just for show.

"Oh---it's in sight now."

We advanced by foot for a little over a day and had reached the place very quickly.

Ahead where the trees part, <Royal capital Regdam>, a town built on the vastly stretched plains, revealed itself in front of our eyes.



In the waters between the beastmen continent and demon continent was a shadow swimming at a great speed.

(...I couldn't say it, there is no way I can tell him...)

Levia grumbled with a sour face as if she swallowed a bitter bug.

"That Desastre and I are... important pieces for the sake of achieving the black robes' goal..."

Chapter 41

World tree castle

“Miss Shironeko and Miss Mineko, what important matters do you have in the royal castle today?”

“I don’t have any important reasons desu. I’ve come to greet the great king for a moment desu.”

“We haven’t shown our faces recently either, so...”

“I see, and your friend over there? He seems to be human judging from his appearance, but...”

“He is someone like a friend and master desu”

“Huh?”

The castle town gates one always have to pass through in order to enter the royal capital Regdam.

The scenery of the castle town that is built with trees on the whole, different from the human race or demons and stretching to the beyond, lets me feel nostalgia together with a strong smell of nature.

“...That soldier, is it fine for him to be surprised with round eyes?”

I ask a question with an amazed voice to the cat sisters who passed through the gate with almost free admission due to their fame.

There were all sorts of things I could retort to, but for now I’ll listen to their story.

“The fact that we got a master must’ve been quite devastating, right?”

“Us sisters have always been alone with the two of us desu. If we were to suddenly bring a master then they would be bound to be surprised.”

“Nono, just hold on a bit, you two.”

Why have I become their master?

It’s actually limited to specific races among the beastmen, but I’ve heard rumors about guys who even have masters that way.

Rather than that, I’ve been earnestly requested by the daughter of the beast king Roa to be her master and thereupon I’ve heard the story of that sort of behavior.

They say that becoming a pet to the one you’ve been beaten by (in this case, any races are fine)... having them own you so to speak, would make you feel happy or so it seems.

But no matter how much I have associated with the total M Elka, I never had the urge to own her as one would’ve expected. Also, I still didn’t seem to have experienced that sort of twisted craving from then on, so I’ve politely declined.

I’ve endured the begging for a while though...

“Setsu has beaten me desu. Becoming my master is natural desu.”

“I haven’t approved of it, you know...”

“Excuse me, mister Setsu... But putting it another way, won’t we become your identification!?”

“Hm?... Now that you mention it.”

They’re right. No matter how famous these two may seem to be around the beastmen, my figure must be standing out quite a bit in this town where there are practically no visiting humans due to being in the middle of war.

It doesn’t seem like there aren’t any of those guys who would put some blame on you and pick a fight either according to Mineko.

But, by doing this and spreading the story of me being the master of the two, it will become proof that I am stronger than these two.

“If it’s like that, then... well, I’ll accept it.”

“Thank you very much. Please endure that position for a while, okay?... It looks like

big sis wants you to be her master from now on though..."

"Letting go of a master this strong is wasteful desu. I can boast with my friends desu."

While saying so, Shironeko linked her arms with me.

I sense a fragrant odor of a female that will stimulate males from the body of this girl who's glued to me, but I ignore it for now.

More like, what, do these guys have the habit of boasting about their masters?

Normally, the master is supposed to be the one boasting about their pet...

"...Well, let's talk about that afterwards, okay? More importantly... It's huge as always"

With Shironeko properly attached to me, I look up at the front of the huge tree that's standing towering over the surroundings, boasting a gigantic size that a multi-storey city building won't come close to.

<World tree>---

Being the largest and longest living tree in this world, it is the world's largest building that is shouldering the castle of the royal capital Regdam. In the tree, passages and rooms are spread like an ant colony and the knights protecting the castle, personal doctors, the beast king's relatives and also the bunch of people he's pleased with are all living inside the tree together.

They should have shaved quite a bit of the inside in order to make that much space.

But the world tree hasn't even become unstable, not even for a moment.

Cutting this down would probably be next to impossible even for me and Touma.

By the way, it's different from the world trees in various fantasy games; it looks like a tree from top to bottom.

The foliage doesn't have the effects of reviving dead people and you can't fully recover your allies' physical strength with its sap either.

It doesn't possess any particular magic either, it's pretty much a normal tree. As if there's no romance.

"World trees in fantasies are supposed to have quite an important role though..."

"I don't really know this thing you call fantasy desu. But there aren't any important roles for the world tree."

"There's the residence of the beast king and his entourage though."

"Yes it does desu. The world tree is important after all desu."

...No, that's not what I mean.



"---Would you look at that, some nostalgic scent have come over."

The room on the highest floor of the world tree castle.

It is the throne room and a throne was put in it.

"Daddy, what's up?"

"Hey! You're a girl, so it's not daddy alright?"

"Doesn't matter riight?"

A man with a strong build sat on the throne.

His golden hair spread roughly and those eyes of his are so sharp he would seem to be able to take one's life with just a glare.

However, contrary to such boorish appearance, he gave a warning to the girl who was gnawing on bony chops while sprawling in front of his eyes in order to gently rebuke his children.

The girl has similar golden hair like the man, extending until below her shoulders. It was left unkempt, but she had no discomfort.

Her body was minutely tanned, her busts were moderate and the other proportions were closely constricted; not even a single bit of excessive fat could be seen.

Her face took after the man in some way and there doesn't seem to be any harm even if they were called parent and child as one would expect.

No---the two are actually parent and child.

"Roa, really... you're also the daughter of the beast king, what are you trying to do by acting like that... please act a little more like my daughter, okay?"

"You too daddy. You have the position of the beast king, so that's why you should talk in a little more majestic tone, okay?"

"Ugh..."

Beast king Regulus... He, the acting king of the beastmen and owner of absolute power, was at a loss for words from his daughter Roa's splendid counter.

"More importantly, you heard me saying what's up, didn't you?"

"More importantly... well, whatever. Roa, you can't smell it? This scent."

"Hm?"

Roa twitched her nose after being told, but there wasn't anything particular she could smell.

"Hm~ I wonder if I just can't tell."

"Okay, it sounds like you still lack special training I see. Go check on the lower floor for now. The guy you've missed is here, you know."

"A guy I've missed?... Okay, I'll be going there for a bit."

Even though she looked at Regulus doubtfully, Roa put the half eaten meat on the plate on the floor and started walking out the room.

Just before leaving the room, Roa swiftly looked back towards Regulus.

“Don’t steal my meat, okay!?”

“I don’t need it! Just hurry up and go!”

“Then it’s fine!”

Upon saying so, Roa finally left the room this time.

In the now silent throne room, Regulus sank very deeply on the throne.

“...Never thought you would be alive, Setsu...”

---Thinking about the fact I can fight you again made me excited, you know...

The beast king laughed.

In order to express his excitement. The excitement of having another meeting of a formidable opponent, his rival under his nose.

The beast king laughed loudly.

In order to digest the joy of being able to see him once again. The close friend he thought he could never meet anymore---

Roa Gold



Chapter 42

Daughter of the beast king

We even succeeded in gaining free admission for the entrance to the world tree with Shironeko and Mineko's faces.

If they don't do a check besides physical appearance so far, then I feel like they would end up allowing easy trespassing with something like a disguising magic, but there is their useful sense of smell.

It means they could instantly judge if it's the real one or not with that outstanding sense of smell of theirs.

"Place got a good atmosphere like always."

"Even humans understand desu?"

"Humans like places surrounded by trees like this too, surprisingly."

This castle which is made by gouging out the tree itself has wooden walls, floors and ceiling of course.

I can say I like baths made out of wood more than those made out of stone and so I think the scent and feel of this sort of tree is nice.

"Oh, more importantly, is the beast king still upstairs like always?"

"Yes, at the top floor desu."

It's not like I really have much time either, I can't take my time.

Shall I show my face right away then?

"Okay then, shall we---"

“Aaaaaah!”

“---go?”

Suddenly a shout reverberated inside the castle, interrupting my words.

Everyone unintentionally looked towards the owner of said voice.

What is there is a blonde girl with a healthy skin color.

Needless to point out, she's the daughter of the beast king Regulus Gold, Roa Gold.

“Yo- You! This scent...!”

“W-!?”

I knew it, so she found out even when my appearance has changed...

The next moment, Roa kicked the floor and instantly appeared in front of me.

And then I perceive the shape of a fist approaching me from the corner of my sight.

“You're still... Naive!”

“!?”

I seize that fist, sweep her legs and hold her down on the floor.

“Mister Setsu!?”

“It's fine, it's kind of like our greeting.”

“Dang it!”

When she was about to raise her body in order to stand up, I interfere on that by taking on a mounting position.

And then I reached the nape of the startled Roa with my hand.

Touch, touch.

“Funya!”

I stroke it as gentle and rustlingly.

I’m aiming to use my palm to give a peaceful touch, different from tickling with your hands.

Upon doing so, Roa’s expression rapidly crumbled, her strength gradually left her body and her expression changed into a charmed one.

“Funyaa~~~don’t... This hand technique is, I knew it~~”

“Long time no see, you washboard kitty. Here here!”

“It’s Setsu~~~nyaaaa”

ふにゃあ〜
もっとお……

獣王の娘
ロア・レオネル



It's like I'm stroking a cat.

I've done this dozens of times, but for some reason her body still seems to remember it even after five years have gone by.

I play with it even more and that body of hers ended up becoming so languid she couldn't stand up anymore already.

Does it feel that good, what I'm doing...

"Sis, did you see that? That daughter of the Great Beast King, Roa was led around by the nose..."

"Stroke, stroke... I'm jealous desu..."

"That's not where you should be looking at, you know!? Sis, get a hold of yourself please!"

What are they doing a comedy skit for, these girls...

What I've come to know these days is that Mineko has the role of the straight man with Shironeko being the useless one.

It's unexpectedly balanced.

Wait, this is not the time for that.

"Funyaa~~~~moore..."

I have to work it out with this girl too before long---

"Where have you been loitering around all this time, Setsu!"

"My bad, my bad. Got lots of things happening in the human country for a while, you know."

"I know that though!... We heard you were forced to return to your former world so we were worried, that's why... wait, don't stroke me! Stop i-... fuwaa~~~~..."

"Interesting like always aren't ya."

I stop the loud mouth from talking with a little stroking.

It wasn't even my intention, so can't you overlook it for me?

"And that's how I returned here, so please forgive me. I'll properly return your worries, okay?"

"Nyaa... O- okay, I get it, so stop your stroking noow..."

Oops, I forgot to stop my hand.

I withdraw my hand just before she's unable to stand anymore.

It took Roa a few minutes to stand up earlier.

Now we're on the way towards the room the beast king is in, it'll be difficult if she sits down in the middle of this hallway.

"Fuuh... And so, what's wrong with you, Shironeko and Mineko? It looks like you're here with Setsu, but..."

"Various things happened..."

"Setsu became our master desu. That is why we are together desu."

"Huh!? Setsu! Are you saying you can become Shironeko's master even though you won't become my master!?"

Shironeko, you bitch... stop saying unnecessary things.

Explaining it is quite troublesome, but I have to explain it to her.

"I didn't actually become one you know. They just declared it on their own."

"Then me too!"

"Didn't you hear me? I'm not even taking applications for something like pets."

Things like disciplining and all, I already have my hands full with just that total M ice woman.

Go to other people for that as much as you can... No, don't go to anyone for that after all.

"For now, let's leave the conversation for later, okay! For later! I have something I have to talk about with the beast king right away!"

"Mmu... Okay."

"Good."

Hum, she's a good, disciplined cat.

Her race is leo, but well, they shouldn't be that much different since they're related to cats.

And the one who disciplined her this far is me.

It's because she was treated as a trouble maker due to her being a wild lioness tomboy... Now she has become someone who is greeted with a smile by the people in the castle and who can return their greetings with a smile.

How should I put this, I'm also very happy of this change of hers.

Well, her wording is a mixed with fierceness and gentleness and sometimes it becomes funny.

That's a fun aspect of hers I guess.



“Speaking of which miss Roa, what sort of relationship do you and mister Setsu have? I have heard of the story that he was the Hero of five years ago, but I couldn’t read about that part at all, so...”

“Hm? Relationship between me and Setsu?”

Oh right, I did talk about myself on our journey here.

I guess you can’t help but get curious about the relationship of me, the former Hero, and Roa.

“That’s right... Setsu was, you know, amazingly strong since that time. The time he took along his three companions and went to the beastmen continent, we were also at war and it was an extreme time where it was pretty much like [It’s humans! Kill them!], so Setsu and the others were also attacked.”

They went at me with dozens of people you know, those soldier looking guys.

Well, of course...

“Setsu ended up annihilating those in the blink of an eye. And then I who was a naughty kid at that time had... wait, did you two know I was a naughty kid?”

“Your nickname wild lioness even reached us desu.”

“Uwah... It’s one thing to say it yourself, but this is embarrassing.”

It’s because this girl at that time was famous even in the other continents from having the position of daughter of the beast king, to say nothing of the beastmen continent.

On a sidenote, Shironeko and Mineko seemed to have started to make a name of themselves after I was sent back.

“Well, whatever. And so I heard there was a strong guy and I challenged him to a fight. The result was a crushing defeat though.”

If I’m not wrong, I have memories of it being a single blow from a cross counter when

she was about to spring at me.

I ended up treating her the same way as the other small fry soldiers at that time, didn't I?

"Now that I think about it, that was the first time I lost to anyone besides daddy... And so I was charmed by Setsu who had beat me and decided to walk arm in arm with him. I would've wanted him to be my master if that was possible though."

"Who'd go do that sort of bothersome thing?"

"So stingy aren't you? Like always."

That being said, I don't feel like getting a pet.

Though even if master means master, I'll think about it if it's a husband type of master

"Didn't you two accompany him for the same reasons?"

"I lost against Setsu desu. That's why I want him to become my master desu"

"I haven't personally fought mister Setsu... But still, he is my lifesaver so I'm thinking about using this body of mine for his sake."

"That's what they said, Setsu. Popular aren't you?"

"Yes, yes."

Roa went elbowing my side.

It didn't feel bad being told this much, but I still don't understand their thinking.

Humans wouldn't even think about following the guy they lost against after all.

The difference in sense of value between the races really is large.

"We already arrived while we were talking about that"

Roa stopped her feet and at the same time we also stopped walking.

In front of us is a wooden double door.

This also takes me back.

“Daddy, I’m coming in---”

“Miss Roa!”

“Ahn?”

A man’s voice called out from behind us in order to stop Roa who has put her hands on the door.

“What, it’s just you Ruga.”

I look over my shoulder and who was there was a young canine man.

He’s got a burly figure and a handsome face.

I guess the beastwomen won’t leave this guy alone. He’s someone of considerable ability, with his conduct and the pressure I feel.

“What do you want with me? I’d like to ask you to make it as brief as possible.”

“What do you want with me, you say... you, are you planning on letting a human meet the beast king!? We are at war, you know that!?”

Oh I get it, this guy’s quite the stubborn guy.

Because I’ve been with these three, we haven’t been dragged into unnecessary trouble up until now, but from the eyes of a guy who have some ability and is at a level to talk back to Roa, interfering with my being here is natural I guess.

A troublesome guy appeared after coming here...

“Even Shironeko and Mineko are together with a human, what is the meaning of this!? I’ll have you explain this to me!”

“Before that, who are yo---”

“Sis, this person is the wolfblade (roujin) Ruga you know.” (ル—ガ; *ruuga*)

“Aah... Now that you mention it there was such a person desu”

“Forgetting about me is... I can see your memories are quite bad.”

“Ah?”

“Si-Sis, restrain yourself”

Uoh! Shironeko’s looks became dreadful when he made fun of what’s inside her head.

I should remember this... wait, more importantly.

“Old man (roujin) , right? First of all I just have some business with the beast king, so I’m not thinking of doing anything in particular...” (老人: *roujin: old man*)

“You bastard... You just insult me didn’t you...?”

“Huh?”

Wolfblade (roujin)... old man (roujin)... Ah, that was certainly my verbal slip---wait, isn’t the nuance the same!? You can’t condemn me for this can you!? It depends on how you catch it right!?

“Do you want me to erase you, human---”

“Stop it, you stupid.”

“...Why are you protecting a human, miss Roa?”

Roa stood in between me and Ruga.

A clear hostility was released from Roa’s eyes to that guy.

“You’ve got it backwards, I stopped you in order to protect you. This human is my future owner... no, wait I mean. The human who will become my master. Even if you

say you have enough strength to become daddy's right hand man, you won't be able to beat this guy."

Hey, what's up with that "owner" part? While you've been saying master and have been mixing in a different meaning to it up until now, your desire to be owned is completely showing you know. Quit that please.

Ah, more importantly... Beastking's right hand huh... I thought he was like a powerful person from the streets.

"...What did you say? Wait a second please, miss Roa. Your master... No, husband is supposed to be me isn't it?"

Ah? What's this guy saying?

"As I have spoken with His Majesty the beast king, I have triumphed in a duel with you and I should have the rights to be wed to you."

"Tha- that's, well, my physical condition was a little..."

"That excuse does not apply between beastmen!"

"...Tch, would you just shut yer hole! Who would want to marry a nagging son of a bitch like you, ya dumbass! Next, dare say something funny in front of Setsu! I tell ya, he's gonna tear ya a new one, just see!"

While saying "we're going," Roa grabbed my hand and opened the door to the throne room.

Ruga was taken aback from the sudden return of her tone from the olden days and being disparaged, he stood stiff and unmoving.

The four of us took our opportunity to finally reach our destination, the throne room.

Chapter 43

Clash of personal feelings

“What is it you’re saying... that that weakling of a human is better than me who will become your husband...?”

Ruga stood unmoving in front of the throne room.

He loves Roa.

That well ordered appearance of hers, her thin but strong muscles.

If he was to be frank then he would have wanted a little more chest on her, but if one looked at that style of hers which attained a magnificent balance, such problems wouldn’t matter at all.

Her hips were somewhat of a size that can easily deliver and that too was to his liking.

And above all... that strength of hers.

A girl who was like the embodiment of his likings, that is Roa Gold.

However, he had learned from that woman a little while ago that there is a male she considered likeable.

If he was a beastman stronger than himself, then he could accept it for now without giving up.

But, the male was a human.

An existence who should be inferior to them, the beastmen. Just by having that next to the woman he loves was unforgivable.

Something like being wedded to that was absurd.

“I won’t allow this, human... I shall make you realize I am more worthy for her...!”

At the time the flames of jealousy spread in his eyes, the black fire tattoo engraved in that bare shoulder was seen releasing a faint light.



The throne room is as spacious as always, I really missed this.

But before I reflect upon my nostalgia, I got curious in the words from Ruga back then.

“Hey you... what that guy just said...”

“Ah! It’s not like I became that guy’s woman okay!? Re- relax!”

That’s not... Well, I’m also curious about that though...

What I’m most curious is about is the part Roa lost in a duel and---

“Ugh! Mister Setsu, the front!”

“Wh-!?”

Thanks to Mineko’s words, I have noticed the fast approaching lust for blood.

I already reflexively caught the fist I would call a lump of enormous power just as it literally approached in front of my eyes.

A weight that made a thud assaulted my whole body and the floor dented from the pressure.

The world tree shook from the shock caused the moment I caught the fist and screams on the lower floors could be heard.

“Hah...! Ain’t this a little extreme... for the first greeting in five years? Right? You lion bastard...!”

“Ku... hahahahahahahahaha! It is you Setsu! Even if your appearance has changed, it’s really you! I’m happy... I’m really happy you know that...!”

The blonde man steadily put in strength in his fist.

This guy is the continent's ruling beast king, Regulus Gold.

That power, the physical ability exceeds the demon king Desastre and that body is even tougher than the top quality armor that humans can create.

"That's some beastly strength you got there, damn it."

"In that case, don't you think you also got strength to spare there...!?"

"I... guess!"

"Ugh!"

I loosen my strength once and bend my knees slightly.

And then this time I correct my strength in one go and also using the spring of my knees to force back Regulus.

"Uoh---"

"Here, it's payback."

I throw a fist towards him while he is staggering.

He seems to have barely put up his guard and stopped my fist with his palms, but that wasn't some punch you could hold down that way.

The impact broke through the back of his hand towards his body and it blew those stockily muscled body towards the throne behind him.

Destroying the ornaments around the throne and all the dust, the world tree castle shook once again.

"Fuuh... I still won't lose, from you at least."

"Aah, geez... As ever the same aren't you, daddy and Setsu."

"Shoock desu."

"Sis, that isn't something you should be saying, you know..."



“Kuhahahahahahaha! I ended up losing again! Looks like your arms hasn’t grown dull Setsu!”

“I didn’t pick up a way of training just to grow dull so easily after all. More importantly... Been a long time, Regulus.”

“Long time no see, Setsu. Have you been well?”

“I ended up having my appearance changed, but well, I’ve been so-so.”

“Well I’m glad about that!”

Said the beast king on his throne and laughed again.

This guy is... well, he looks well, so I guess I don’t have to ask him.

So, I see that you’ve come to greet us, but... you seem to have some other business as well. I mean, you even took along such strong companions with you.”

That reminds me, Regulus should know about Shironeko and Mineko.

After all, the two of them had gotten this guy injured.

“Pretty much. My bad, but if I were to be frank, then the greetings was just an extra. Coming here to borrow some of your strength is my real intention.”

“Strength? You are?”

“Yeah. You know that the demon continent is on the offensive against the human country right now, right?”

“I learned of that this morning.”

“Really. And so, not just the human continent’s Heroes or something, that son of a bitch Tuma is probably acting as the human’s armed forces too.”

“...Tuma?”

Listening to those words of mine, Roa shuddered and Regulus's eyes became even more serious.

"So he's alive, that guy..."

"I'm not sure about the circumstances there, but for the time being I'm pretty sure that some outrageous fighting power is on the other side. It's frustrating, but the confidence in handling that many of them well is something I don't have."

"And there's where we come into play, right?"

"Yeah"

I explain that I'd like a large military force if possible, but I add that I don't need half-baked strength since they will become a burden instead.

The enemy military strength is competent.

Guys with no actual strength will lose their lives in front of my eyes if I bunch them up.

If that's the case then it's better not having them from the beginning.

"...I would've liked to go there, but hearing that explanation, we'll be in a situation where those guys would come to the beastmen continent some day. If Touma is really there, then it would be easy for him to change their focus to our place. It's impossible for me to leave this place."

"I figured as much..."

Any country would be in a dangerous situation if the king goes absent.

Besides, the king is the strongest among the beastmen and demons, unlike the human one.

If that strength goes absent, then it'll turn into a big once in a lifetime chance in the eyes of enemy nations.

"I will go with you. You don't have any complains with my strength, right?"

"Yeah Roa, I'd like you to come... I mean, come with us."

“Okay!”

Roa happily smiled broadly.

Are you that glad that you’ve been ordered?

It’s the same with Elka, but it’s hard to understand those feelings.

“Mineko and I are expected to go desu.”

“Is that so? What, don’t have quite the fighting power here?”

“I think the amount of people is a little on the low side.”

I’m sure we have enough strength.

But at the very least I want one more with strength close to SSS rank---

“---Your majesty, the beast king! I cannot permit that! I’d like you to reconsider!”

Suddenly the door to the throne room was thrown open.

Who entered is that old man... I mean, wolf blade man named Ruga.

“I’m sorry, but I let myself eavesdrop your conversation! Listening to such present situation, your majesty can absolutely not give permission to decrease the beastmen continent’s military strength!”

“Ruga...”

Regulus made an indescribable expression towards Ruga who suddenly came in and shouted around.

“We may have certainly formed an alliance with the demon continent now, but we had been originally mutual enemies! We should have no need to use a part of our military strength for their sake! Not to mention it’s inexcusable to have our biggest fighting power go!”

...Well, he's kind of right.

What happens with the demons has nothing to do with them in the eyes of those who think the most of the beastmen. Furthermore, if they help them and fall into crisis themselves, then that would be horrible to look at as well.

The opinion of these guys are relatively quite honest.

"Once again, I'd like you to reconsider! Your majesty!"

"Hmm... Ruga's view is certainly right. I would have done so if it was just an ordinary human's request, but it's different if it is a request from Setsu of all people you see..."

"Wha-!?"

Looks like Ruga was shocked by Regulus's indecisive attitude.

He probably must've thought he would immediately accept his opinion.

To think he wouldn't accept his beastman view and accept the request of the human me... or something like that.

"Is your majesty weighing the human's request to my opinion...? This dainty human without a fragment of dignity!?"

"Look here, you asshole---"

"That's right and I'll add that I'm thinking more about listening to Setsu's request."

"What... did you say...?"

Interrupting Roa's angry voice, Regulus spoke the words that bore his heart.

Yeeaah... I have a hunch that this is going to become something troublesome somehow.

"You didn't hear me? I want to listen to this human's request. More so than your opinion you see?"

“Wh-... Why would you!? You, with the position of beast king!”

“You see, a beast king is what the strongest becomes. I didn’t particularly become the strongest in order to rule over the continent. I just wanted to fight strong people, that’s why I have become strong. Then I was arbitrarily made beast king and now I’m sitting on such an impressive chair. Well, I am able to have this good life after receiving this position. I do love the beastmen continent enough that I will protect it my own way though. But, if you ask me which is more important: the beastmen continent or this old human friend of mine, then my choice is just a little tilted towards Setsu.”

“Wha... Then your capacity as a king is...”

“That’s right, I don’t have the capacity to be a king. You think you can endure having the likes of a king who would pick his friend over his country? And so, if you have any complaints about it, then I shall hand over this chair anytime. Only---if you can win from me that is.”

“Ugh!”

Ruga stiffened and choked when Regulus glared at him.

That guy would also say something cruel.

A guy who could win from you, that very person itself would be an irregular of this world.

If Regulus is a special being in terms of strength, then someone like Ruga would be similar to an ordinary person.

An ordinary person cannot win from special.

As long as you don’t desire power even at the cost of your life that is---

Well, if you let me say it, then I think that this guy is just not ruling as a tyrant is better than nothing.

There’s basically nothing but guys who would do as they please when it comes to those who become king just through strength or connections after all.

“*sigh*... But your opinion is also correct, Ruga. That’s why I’m troubled you know...”

hmm, let's see there... Ah, then Setsu, try a duel with Ruga a bit."

"Huh?"

The one who responded wasn't me, but that Ruga fellow.

I... vaguely expected that, to tell you the truth.

"And I will listen to what the victor says. Don't you think this is quite the beastman-like method of deciding things?"

"Me, against this human...?"

Shit, what a troublesome thing you brought up, you lion bastard.

Can't I just beat him up and end it in this place?

Ah, lion bastard's eyes are saying no, annoying.

"---Fine then."

You're really fine with that?

"I shouldn't lose to the likes of such human. I shall show you a flawless victory"

"Good. How about you Setsu?"

"...I'm fine with anything. I'd rather do this than arguing with words."

Talking nonsense here is a waste of time and it's easy if I can make them agree by sheer strength.

I'm not really enthusiastic about it though...

"...Miss Roa."

"...What?"

Ruga, one of the people concerning this duel, turned towards Roa.

Roa put herself slightly on guard towards that serious expression of his.

“If I win from that human over there, will you make me your husband?”

Hm?

“...Okay. If you win, then I will accept my loss in your duel against me before and obediently tie myself to you.”

“...Thank you, miss Roa.”

What are you saying, Roa?

Why are you looking at me after you finished speaking?

Actually, Ruga you too bastard; the hell you doing, inserting your personal feelings in a fight with your country's resources on the line?

At the time he expressed such personal feelings, I---

“Hey Regulus, we're starting this quickly got it where's the place we're doing this right now got it I'mma send this fuck flying---wait, what are you laughing at!?”

“Kuh... kukukuh... I got it I got it, let's do this right away.”

Tch, what an irritating way of laughing.

But I don't care about it if we can start right now.

I'll beat you up right away.

I'm not letting this son of a bitch take Roa, she's my---

---Huh?

Chapter 44

Conclusion?

The city Regdam of the beastmen country.

And what is at the center of it is a facility that was prepared as a place where those who like fights could regularly test their strength.

According to my knowledge, that resembles something that is called a Colosseum.

[Get ‘em! Ruga!]

[Tear the likes of that human to pieces!]

And a large number of disparagement was sent towards me who is standing right in the center of that colosseum.

“Hey wait a minute... That lion bastard... hasn’t it become overly serious?”

A large number of beastmen filled up the audience seats and they are waiting impatiently for the fight between me and Ruga to start.

We planned to quietly bring it to an end in private at first, but Regulus went and prattled,

[We might as well invite citizens as spectators and enjoy ourselves!]

Or something like that.

What should I say... It’s kind of awkward.

“Hmph, got cold feet, human? After all, you’re an inferior creature.”

“Aah, yeah... I guess.”

“...Tch”

I, who had been intently polishing my ignoring skills up until now, didn't move a budge when I was being stirred up like that.

Or maybe I should say it became troublesome thanks to me losing quite a bit of my motivation.

At first I considered seriously smashing him, but I wonder if it's better to just let me finish it with a single blow before long if it becomes so much like an away match.

If I do at least that much, then even the audience should become quiet.

“Alright already... let's hurry up with this.”

“I'll paint your face with tears...!”

Something's being eager, but I ignore it, ignore it all the way.

We are facing each other in the center of the colosseum, mutually standing ready.

Well, I have both of my bare hands dangling down though...

“You bastard... are you underestimating me?”

“Yeah.”

“...I'll kill you”

Oops, that made him unnecessarily angry.

(Well, it'd be fine if he's not just all talk though...)

“Are the both of you ready for this!?”

Inside the colosseum, the voice of the culprit of all this echoed.

The audience seats was wrapped up in silence for a moment by that voice and Ruga's expression quickly changed from anger to that of a keen warrior.

"Well then, shall we soon start this huge man to man fight where my beloved daughter, Roa Gold is at stake!?"

Cheers of joy echoed around together with those words.

Uh huh... shut up.

But making those guys shut up is also fun I guess.

"Are the both of you good to go? Well then---begin!"

"Sh-!"

"!"

A man, probably the one being the referee, showed the starting sign between us.

And then, almost simultaneously, Ruga's sharp nail on his arm approached me.

"Whoa... now now, aren't you fast."

"What... is...?"

But still, his speed isn't such a big deal.

It's easy enough to grab and stop that arm.

"Is this all you got?"

"Kuh... There's no way that's all...!"

I sense he was going to pull his arm, so when I let my hand go of it, Ruga kicked the ground and took some distance from me.

He's faster than I thought, maybe I can enjoy this a little.

"Change of plans, I'm gonna play with you just a little bit."

"You... Why youuuuuu!"

I did notice that I sounded awfully like a baddie, but it doesn't change much from what I'm going to do, so I relished the feeling of the villain's role to my heart's content.



"---It went different from what I had imagined, but it's fine this way."

While overlooking the two opening the fight at the center of the colosseum, Roa began to converse with Shironeko and Mineko sitting beside her.

"What do you mean with it went different from what you had imagined...?"

"At first... I actually thought about instigating Setsu by becoming the betting target. I already knew that he cherishes me in the end, so then I thought maybe he will put his all into this. We kind of made him lose his strength because of daddy making it such a big deal... But Ruga is stronger than he thought, so it looks like he feels like wanting to fight him a bit---or rather play with him."

"A schemer desu"

"Tahaha... I only got the result alright I'm telling you"

Being praised for going to the wrong direction, Roa showed a forced smile.

From her perspective, having it go according to her own expectations was the most ideal as a matter of course.

"Nevertheless... uhm..."

"It's pitiful desu"

"Hey Sis, you're too frank about this..."

“Well... of course it’s like that”

The opinions of the three were in agreement.

All of them were regarding to the act at the center of the colosseum, which couldn’t be described as a fight.

The cheers had already ceased and the spectators were looking quietly.



“---Done already?”

“Haa... haa...”

Not even three minutes should have passed since then.

Right now, Ruga has his knees on the ground.

“Ri- ridiculous... This is impossible...”

“At least look at reality I tell you.”

The guy was certainly faster than I thought.

He even has the power, I can even accept it a little if I’m told that he’s Regulus’s right hand man.

But that guy, he’s not reaching him with even a single finger.

Specifically, he would get instantly killed, there’s that kind of difference between them.

...That’s why there’s something I can’t describe.

“Hey Roa! Did you really lose against this kind of guy!?”

I ask Roa who is sitting in the audience.

She was surprised from suddenly being called and turned away her face like she was embarrassed.

“Uhm... That time... was female’s day, you know... I was a little sluggish, so---hey, don’t make me say so much!”

Female’s day?

Female, you mean a woman’s thing right---Ah, I see.

It’s that thing us men don’t understand.

“You... Were you really glad about winning against a woman who was in bad shape...?”

“Shut up...! Silence!”

“Woah”

So you refuse to listen...

The nail he swung had been cutting up the empty air without hitting me even once.

A vein was showing on his face and he knows the fact he is losing very much to me.

“Adventurer’s guide, always stay calm... wait, you’re not even an adventurer, so I guess it’s meaningless.”

“Uoooooooo! <Flying nail>!”

Ruga raised his arm overhead.

What was released after that were four beams. It’s a skill that uses the same school as <Flying sword> and it is difficult to parry the bigger the number of beams made by one swing.

“Your ability in that aspect is pretty low though.”

“Wha-...”

I mow down all four in one go with my right arm and that made Ruga lose his angry expression and have a surprised expression pasted on his face instead.

It's different when you focus your attack on one point, but if he neglects power by giving preference to hitting me, then he won't be able to put even a single injury on my body in the first place.

It doesn't mean I'm going to directly receive it just because that's so though.

"What if you undergo <Animalisation> soon? Your specialty should come from there right?"

"Gh!... I don't care even if you regret it, you know!?"

It's kind of standard that characters who say that would get done in right away though...

Ruga who went on all fours was wrapped up in light and was transforming that physique of his.

(...That wasn't surprising... right?)

"Grrrrr..."

Not sure if I should say just as I thought, but... Ruga's <Animalisation> is a wolf.

That physique of his is a size smaller than even Shironeko's <Animalisation>.

If I remember correctly, it's about having strength only giving you <Animalisation> and the difference in strength being shown in that physique as well.

So if you think about it straightforwardly, it means that this guy is weaker than Shironeko though...

"...Die"

The black wolf leaps at a speed several levels faster than before.

Although I said he's a size smaller, its size is at the level of being able to push my body down with just one leg from the looks of it.

"You got quite the nerve saying dangerous words there."

I dodge under Ruga who was approaching before my eyes and go below his abdomen.

And then I lift him up as is.

"What!?"

"How lightweight... heave... hoooo!"

When I throw him from my shoulders, Ruga struck his back hard on the ground several times and stopped as he got slapped onto the walls of the colosseum.

"Gah... Hah... How did he... with one attack..."

"How about it? Ready to accept your loss?"

"Kuh..."

Even this guy should be able to understand it, the fact he can't win from me.

You'll understand if you look at his mortifying-like expression.

Even though he himself has been going all out, his opponent didn't even take out his weapon.

How much of his pride must that have broken off of him.

Well, I've been aiming for that though.

"Let's end this, give it up."

"..."

Ruga lowered his eyes and hung his head.

I guess we finally have decided the match with this---

Chapter 45

Pandemic

I don't want to admit it.

Midway I understood my strength does not work against this man.

However, having a beastman be defeated by a human is unbecoming.

For this reason it is impossible for me to admit defeat.

I have hung onto that with desperation.

I am completely out of both magic power and stamina.

But the man doesn't have even a single one of his breath disturbed.

I realize the difference in strength.

Even so I cannot accept this.

Miss Roa... That the man suitable to be her husband would be him is something I will not accept.

That is my woman... she's mine---

[Hum... It looks like you've gathered quite a lot of love and hate haven't you?]

Who could this be...?

Even though there shouldn't be any person who would call out to I who is hanging my head down... beastmen are cruel towards the defeated.

There should be no one who would call out, especially to me who have been overwhelmed by a human.

But this voice is... it is like I can hear it directly from inside my head for some reason...

[I don't even want to know the beastmen's habits, but you want that girl don't you? Then, is it fine to give up in this place?]

It's not fine... but a frontal attack against him is---

[Really now... for what reason did you think I have implanted that <Treasured Tattoo>?]

Tattoo? What are you talking about?

[Ah, that's right... Sorry, sorry. I've made it invisible so it's not like you can see it I guess. Well, it looks like Setsu has seen it through...]

What have you bastard been talking about until now...? Who the hell are you?

[Hm? Me? Uhm, let's see there... A passing shaman or something along that line I guess? Do you want that girl at any cost?]

I do want her... however...

[You want her even if you would put your life on the line?]

...If it gets me the girl... Then this life, I shall hand over as much of it as you want.

[It'll be enough as long as you have that resolve, I will grant you the strength]

...Why are you doing something like that?

[You know I, I also have something I want at any cost. Life, fortune, dreams, partners, whatever I must sacrifice, I want that. And I will get that by you winning from that man. Well, it means this is an agreement of interests. I will provide as much strength as you like if it is for the sake of you winning it. That is why---make sure you win, okay? No matter what you have to sacrifice for it...]



“What is it now?”

Ruga is acting strange for some reason.

I take a step back as a precaution and suddenly the tattoo on that guy's shoulder wriggled.

"Gah... Aaaaaaaaaah!"

"!?"

The wriggling tattoo spread throughout Ruga's whole body while releasing some ominous miasma.

A black pattern surrounds his whole body and then that guy's muscles began swelling, slowly changing even that physique of his.

(This magic power... so it was that bastard Touma after all... gh!)

The miasma that is overflowing from Ruga is without a doubt the same thing as Touma's cursed magic power.

Where the heck did this guy come in contact with that guy...

No... There's no use in even thinking about that, is there?

That guy's a phantom; you won't know where and what he is involved with.

It shouldn't be a mysterious thing at all even if he has connections with a beastman all the way here.

I mean, he's at least involved with Shironeko.

At any rate, he really has the nerve to get involved with that racist guy...

Does that mean he's driven that much into a corner?

"GaaaaaaAaaah!"

"Oops... Ain't got the time to think about unnecessary stuff I guess"

The tattoo that was spread on the whole body faded bit by bit into that guy's body.

On the other hand, that body ended up dyeing black as it melted into him. Right now, the former parts of Ruga has become more difficult to find.

His upper body has become misshapen from the expanding muscles and it has become unbalanced with his unexpanded lower body. Both his arms are put on the ground to regain balance.

His image is close to a gorilla, but... it was better when he was a dog...

“...But I guess it’s tough”

“Gaah! Gaaaah!”

Sorrowful tone of voice was also mixed in Ruga’s shout and before long, blood began overflowing from his mouth, probably from his throat being torn.

Even so, his screams wouldn’t stop.

What a painful thing to look at, this scene...

“Tch... I have to do something about---wait whoa!?”

“NUGAaah!”

He’s fast, you can’t compare him to just a while ago.

He closed the distance the instant I turned my mind away and came striking with his stout arms.

It’s good I took up a defensive posture by having my arms crossed, but he’s more powerful than I expected so he struck me on the colosseum walls with just that brute strength of his.

“Koho-... hey, that hurts a bit”

[Oooh! That’s the waay!]

[Attack, attack!]

“GAaaah!”

The spectators are an easy-going bunch.

They can't see Ruga's changes as anything but becoming stronger.

"Setsu! Isn't that Touma's!?"

"I know! Roa! You don't have to come down, got it!"

"Eh!? A- alright..."

I stop Roa who was about to jump out.

I might get her injured after all at this rate...

Considering that punch just now, the current Ruga should have the power and speed rivaling that of the beast king.

Nine out of ten, that should be caused by the power up from that tattoo.

And if that's something Touma gave him... then it shouldn't end with just a power up.

I think I said it before, but he won't reach the beast king or demon king's level if he doesn't wish for power and expend his life.

They hold talent to stand on the top and on top of that they are powerful people who have repeatedly worked hard enough shave off their lives.

In other words, that talent... or rather the lack thereof keeping Ruga from reaching them means...

"That guy... he's burning away his fucking life...!"

"GAaaaah!"

The guy's muscles tore at the end of its swelling and blood began gushing out here and there.

But the torn parts were immediately regenerated and then a different part got torn, which were also regenerated immediately.

It repeats the astounding cell division and it seems to be increasing his strength in a second by instantly performing destruction and regeneration.

I'm neither good nor bad at physical education, but it should be identical to the theory of muscles becoming stronger.

Doing that in such speed, his body can't survive it.

"GIRR... KIRR... ERRRYTHING!"

"Don't start saying disturbing things, you!"

I unsheathe Kuromaru from my magic bag and start running towards Ruga who transformed into a grotesque thing.

"GIRR!"

I slouch and parry the arm that was swung in order to mow me down and then I go to towards his chest.

"That's dangerous ya know!"

"Gyaa!"

I try to swing up with Kuromaru and cut Ruga's arm off.

This should break his balance and make him unable to move---

"Wha...! Instantly regenerating it."

"GAaah!"

That plan of mine was an utter failure; his arm suddenly grew from the opening and hit my right side as is.

"Tch!"

Even I can't let myself get sent flying the second time.

I toss away Kuromaru, hold the big arm twice the size of my own body with both my hands and stand firm by putting strength in my feet.

"Zeyah!

"Ga--"

I sweep away his arm and once again I slip into his body to kick his body flying.

There's also a wall nearby, so Ruga's body sunk deeply into the colosseum wall.

But---

"...No damage... huh?"

"Gllllllllh!

No, maybe it was a little effective, just that he immediately regenerates.

Even so, I had planned in putting in quite some strength into it.

"DIE... EVRRYTHING... DIEEEeeeeee!"

"W-! Crap!"

Ruga raised a warcry.

At the same time, a jet black wave was released from that guy's body and spread in its surroundings.

The state of the audience who were covered in that quickly became strange.

[What is... this...]

[My body feels heavy...]

[It's, it's painful...]

"Isn't this <Pandemic>!?"

<Pandemic>---One of the fiendish skills Touma uses. It's a skill where the one who had a curse planted on becomes a source of infection and would spread the curse around them. Since the guy isn't planting the curse personally, it would need quite some time until the curse is complete, but even so it will cause the audience to have poor health where they won't be able to move.

I can pop off this level of curse with my own strength, but if the guys in the surroundings are all basked in it for a long time, then it'll become a serious incident.

"It'll be bad if I don't crush him right away...!"

But... Killing Ruga with my own hands is...

I know it's not the time to be fixated on things, but... even so---

"Mister Setsu!"

"!? Mineko!?"

Mineko was dashing to the stadium.

Why can that girl move normally?

"Sis, Lord beast king and miss Roa suddenly collapsed and...!"

"Tch, so those guys are no good either... Why can you move?"

Mineko, who jumped next to me only looks a little unwell, but it didn't look like there's any strangeness in her body movement.

Even though she's come this close to it, why though?

"Well... I do feel a little sluggish, but it's dozen times better than the time I was violated

by the curse.”

“...Oh that’s how it is.”

Antibody against the curse... By continuing to be ravished by a powerful curse for a long time, Mineko’s body has probably become quite strong against cursed magic.

It wouldn’t be strange if her body has made antibodies, since there are many of them that work similarly to pathogens, especially those that give negative influence to one’s constitution like this.

This is... a blessing in disguise.

“Mineko... lend me a bit of your strength.”

“Eh? Ah, okay!”

“GAaaaah!”

We face Ruga who is still raising his warcry and spreading the curse.

I’m going violently... for just a little longer, okay?

Chapter 46

Smashing

There are only two ways to stop the one who had ended up becoming the source of <Pandemic>: either the person who invoked the magic cancels it himself or you make the body suspend its biological activity.

But this guy must probably have two curses invoked.

One of them reinforces his physical strength and makes him rampage.

This must be the tattoo that's on the guy's shoulder.

The other one is this <Pandemic>.

It's an extremely troublesome thing if it's like this.

His regeneration ability is too high so killing him won't happen with ordinary methods and using only half my strength would end up with our side getting done in instead.

If it's me then with one blow---no...

"Tch...! Mineko! I'll stop that guy's movement! That's why... smash that guy's head please."

"Eh!? O- okay, I understand!"

Mineko accepted my unreasonable demand even though she was surprised.

No matter how much his regenerative powers are, you can't expect him to live if he loses his head.

The source of the curse must likely be in there.

Actually, the first person Touma made to rampage came to a stop with his head in very small pieces.

If it's like that, then... it should be enough with Mineko.

“We’re going!”

“Yes!”

“GAAaaaaahh!”

I bring down my body and rush forward towards Ruga.

When I’m about to approach in front of his eye, that strong arm of his was pushed out towards me.

“Ya got the nerve!”

I see all of his arm that he couldn’t skillfully use from being too close and lop it off from the visible elbow part.

Cut off and made flying, the arm danced in the sky and dropped on the ground, but that arm of his immediately started regenerating.

But I won’t let that happen so easily.

“<Swallow Overturn>---gh!”

A genuine sword skill that takes careful aiming, which is unusual for me.

I swing all the way down from a slant, cutting off Ruga’s arm and thigh.

“Ugh! Take this!”

Next, I swing up the swung down sword by using my knees to spring up.

Ruga who was cut in a V sign lost both his feet and arms and as a result of losing his support, he collapsed face down.

“Do it!”

“Yes! <Heavy Leg>!”

The time from collapsing until he’s completely regenerated.

Mineko matched her timing on that and drove an axe kick towards his head.

<Heavy Leg> is a technique that’s said to charge magic power and drive it all into one’s leg.

It’s an elementary technique that can usually be used if the one has magic power.

Even so if it’s Mineko’s strength, the ability to smash Ruga’s head should---

“!? Ugh...”

“Hey! What happened!?”

Mineko, who had her heels driven into his head had her face dyed in pain.

On the other hand, Ruga was unhurt and didn’t even let out a voice of being writhing in pain.

<!!>

“Ugah... AAaaaaah!”

“!!”

“Look out!”

Ruga had all his four limbs regenerated and stood up.

And in doing so, his arm was swung and it grabbed Mineko. While I lop off his arm with Kuromaru again, I took her and separated from that place.

“Did he get your leg?”

“Yes... That body is too tough...”

I put down Mineko I have been carrying and apply recovery magic on said leg.

The injured leg was immediately healed, but to think he was able to endure this girls' <Heavy Leg>, what freaking strength does he have...

We had been attacked by monsters on the way here too and I've also seen Mineko's way of fighting.

The <Heavy Leg> in this occasion was supposed to have the ability to pulverize an S rank monster effortlessly.

To be able to endure that, this guy is probably genuinely rivaling the beast king.

“You have anything better than <Heavy Leg>?”

“Yes... But a **buildup** becomes necessary for smashing that head. Also if we don't stop his movement, then doing it reliably is a little...”

A buildup and restraints huh---in that case.

“I can use that magic then... I haven't really used it much so I'm worried about it, but.”

I didn't want to fight using magic in the first place after all, me.

“GAaaah!”

Ruga probably wasn't pleased with our exchange, he raged even more, skillfully used his big arms and started running this way.

It'll be fine if I can match his timing though...

“Oh Earth, Origins of Mother Life, capture those resenting us---<Earth Bind>!”

“GAh!?”

Because it was magic I'm not used to, I had it invoked with a complete aria.

The timing was fortunately just right; the dirt hand grown from the earth twisted around the guy's foot and hands that extended more and more and entangled his movement.

Ruga who had the freedom of his body stolen struggled, but he couldn't successfully shake loose the dirt arms due to those pointlessly developed arms of his.

The earth arms which gradually coiled around his arms maximized its strength in response to my magic power.

"Ga... AAah..."

Having them strongly biting into his body, Ruga who had perfectly rendered unable to move about, brought up a groan after putting up his last resistances, perhaps painfully.

"He's completely restricted...! Mineko!"

"Yes! <Cat Legs>...!"

Mineko took up a crouching start behind me and her legs transformed into the appearance of cat legs.

Must be a type of <Partial animalisation>.

A technique that changes only a part of one's body to an animal through precise control in power.

Mineko's animalisation is, of course, a cat.

And so those cat legs---

"Hah!"

look tough enough to jump up five times her own height.

“Gyah---”

Taking a long jump, Mineko jumped up to in front of the eyes of Ruga who is rendered unable to move and drove that knee of hers into the guy’s face.

The head which had all of her strength transmitted to without spare, bursted open along with a sounds of something being smashed.

While flesh and blood scattered, a single headless figure was complete there.

Chapter 47

Reunion, and expectations

“Fuuh... It’s over huh?”

“It looks... like it.”

Ruga who lost his head didn’t move.

As a result of smashing the source of <Pandemic>, damage shouldn’t be spreading any more than this.

Everyone should be able to move before long.

It’s better to purify them with light magic just to be sure, but I should go tell that to Regulus later.

“To think Mr Ruga would turn out this way... did something happen?”

“This guy... was used. By that inhuman son of a bitch---”

[Hey wait, isn’t inhuman a little cruel though?]

“!?”

Unintentionally.

That’s right, reflexively.

I move Mineko behind me and cover her.

I can’t let this guy get near her.

I can’t let the owner of this voice get near her.

[Is that kid that important? Is she---Setsu]

“...Long time no see, you shitty bastard.”



He stood there before I became aware of it.

He stood there on top of Ruga's corpse.

In ashen hair, red eyes and skin that's as white as it is creepy.

He has skin color that's different from the demons; I feel nothing but discomfort from that skin of his.

He's wearing the same clothes as the black robed bunches, but he had taken off his hood so you can clearly see that face of his.

It hasn't changed from five years ago---A face where you may end up believing if he's called a young lady.

It definitely confirmed that this guy's the person himself and it was a hard fact that I can't do anything about disproving it.

"Why the hell are you here...! Toumaa!"

[Oh now, would you not shout so much? Isn't this our reunion after several years?]



これ以上俺の仲間
手を出すようなら、
お前をこの手で**殺**す



This man, Kamishiro Touma, his appearance unchanged since five years ago, is now standing here.

[---Though I say that, my body isn't actually here. The feeling that you want to hold me in your arms as soon as you could has been greatly conveyed to me, Setsu... but I'm sorry okay? Our real reunion will be a little more in the future. Do your best and bear with it until then, okay?]

"Stop messing around, you fuck!"

I take a swing with Kuromaru without thinking.

Even though I'm certainly supposed to be able to bisect him, that blade slipped through that guy's body without even a single response.

[That's why I'm telling you, this isn't an object. I only used the coordinates of this corpse and sent my thought body here.]

"Tch... You really have the nerve making fun of people"

[It's one of my expressions of love to you, you see]

Always having the nerve to say things that would make the hairs on your body stand on end.

While showing the usual vague smile, this guy threw a genuinely passionate gaze towards me with not even a single hesitation.

Even that hasn't changed after five years.

"This voice...! It's the same as the person who put the curse on me...!"

[Well well, long time no see, Mineko. You sisters both really have the nerve to double-cross me. Even though I took the troubles of thinking about taking you both in as a comrade despite being a beastman.]

"I can't believe it...! You have been tormenting me and my big sister!"

[You didn't fix those very defiant looks of yours, so there's no helping it, is there? Even I didn't really want to do something violent, you see? Besides, I told you I would release you from that if you continued cooperating with me, didn't I?]

That's a lie.

I saw Touma had looking diagonally upwards for an instant.

It's this guy's habit whenever he makes up a lie.

I know that, especially because I had a fight with him to the death... It's the only part of this guy that's easy to understand.

[Well, whatever. I'll just dispose of you if you're telling me you will side with Setsu. Only I can be near Setsu. I'm sorry Setsu... I'll soon erase that female cat and then be by your side, okay?]

"Gh!?"

"You talk too much, who's going to allow that?"

I hold Mineko who was behind me tightly like I'm embracing her.

This girl, Shironeko, Roa too, anybody else, I can't let any of them be erased.

They're undeniably already my important people.

"Mi- mister Setsu..."

[...How envious... envious, yup, I'm envious of you, Mineko. Say, why though? Setsu. Why would you not hold me tightly? Couldn't you treat me more precious I wonder? I can do so much more for you than that sort of woman you know? If you wish for it, I will look after all of your daily life. If you wish for it, I will even look after your nights! Is that still not good? Is my body not good after all? Things like gender is irrelevant I tell you! If there's love between us then it doesn't matter at all! Hey, listen Setsu. Come to my side. I will make you happy. The demons and beastmen who have deceived you. I'll destroy them all for you, so let's live together with the two of us, with just the two of us, okay? At a quiet place where nobody will come---]

"That part's what's not good, you yandere bastard."

I interrupt Touma's words and thrust at him with one hand.

My body refuse to listen to anymore of this.

"If you lay your hands on my companions anymore than this, then I will kill you with these hands of mine. I've already killed you once, killing you twice wouldn't change much I bet."

I don't know how he revived himself, but if I had failed to kill him, then I have to properly kill him once more.

Once, I had taken responsibility of the life of the person called Kamishiro Touma.

Taking responsibility of his life until the end should be my duty.

"It took all of my effort until now just to take responsibility of your life, but it's a different story if you're alive. Once more... I'm going to set things straight and take responsibility of your life once more."

[...You really won't understand me the ordinary way, do you? Fine, If you wish for it... then shall we go for it? Right now I'm in the demon continent. As you have already known, we're in the highly acclaimed war. If you're coming, then it's better to come quickly, you know? My subordinates will also be participating in person after all.]

His subordinates must likely be those black robes.

I'm aware of the abilities of those guys.

For that reason I don't want to pay attention to this guy and quickly go.

"I get it already. I'll be going lickety split, so stay put and wait."

[fufufu... 'kay, I'll be waiting. This time I will for sure... win you over to my side]

Leaving behind those words, Touma's figure became dim.

That guy was showing a bold smile until his figure was completely erased.

Acting like he could afford to like always... annoying bastard.

“Mi-mister Setsu... Uhm...”

“Hm? Ah, my bad.”

“It’s, it’s fine...”

Come to think of it, I forgot I was holding Mineko tightly.

After separating, her face was flushed red and she flap-flap fanned her face with her hand.

That appearance of hers was a little charming and for some reason it felt like my anger receded and I was able to calm myself down.

“Thanks, Mineko. I was able to stay calm for a bit thanks to you.”

“Me, me too... I was a little happy... desu.”

Humm... the appearance of her looking down with her face red is stimulating me quite a bit.

I knew it, I really can’t let them get erased by Touma.

This girl too or anyone for that matter, I can’t let those guy do that to them.

“Are you two okay!?”

“Are you okay desu?”

“Roa, Shironeko... I see you’re all fine”

The two who have descended from the audience seats, though they look a little unwell, have already become able to move normally.

“I’m mostly fine now. But still, that just now...”

“Yeah, it’s the bastard Touma.”

“I knew it...”

Roa’s facial expression turned vicious.

This girl is also one who knows about that guy’s terror.

Her body trembling a bit can’t be helped I guess.

“That is... the same voice of the human who ordered me desu.”

“Yeah... That’s how it looks like, big sis.”

These two must also have things to think about.

They’ve been completely coerced and used after all, from the looks of it.

“---This has become quite the incident.”

“Regulus... Are you fine too?”

“I’ve been able to move since quite a while ago so I’m fine. I’ve also heard the whole conversation.”

He seems to be walking with composure, is that a situation where I say “as expected of him”?

Just to be sure, I apply light magic on everyone and completely purify that curse.

“What to say about Ruga... if I only hadn’t propose this sort of fight...”

“No---it should happen either way.”

It won’t be easy to escape from Touma, seeing that he’s got a curse planted on him.

Sooner or later he’ll be made to rampage without any prior notice and thus he would

have his appearance changed and be made of use.

As far as that guy is concerned, he must have been the perfect chess piece the moment he fell in love with Roa.

He would even use love, that's the cruel part of that guy.

"Let me do his burial. And you all will..."

"Go to the demon continent. ASAP."

I will go and stop them.

And then quickly put an end to this war.

"Okay. If that's the case, then let's prepare the transfer magic circle. It shouldn't take so much time, but I'd like you to wait for a bit."

"Got it."

If I can transfer, then I expect it'll be much faster than crossing the ocean.

If it's like this then I feel that I can go there before the black robed bunches begin to act violently.

Still, there's a lot to worry about.

Yuuhi, who's supposed to have been made to participate in the war, Levia who went a step earlier towards the war and Desastre who was first to be aimed at.

I'm begging you, I want you all to be safe.

(They... will be going already I guess)

There's people who are relieving that anxiety of mine a little.

If my expectation is---if my hope is right, then those guys should already be heading towards the demon country for me.

“I’m counting on you... you three.”

Chapter 48

Threat of the battlefield

A few hours before the fight started between Setsu and the wolfblade Ruga in the beastmen continent.

Inside the castle of the human continent's kingdom of Destinea, the research institute of Tia Amarette aka the magic scholar.

Within were figures of three people.

One was the owner of this chamber, Tia Amarette.

The other Elka Versoe.

And the last was Glain Armony

The three were standing on a large magic circle--a transfer magic circle to be accurate.

"He has finally come out of this formal castle hasn't he..."

"I am able to perfectly percept Touma's magic power. This castle had served its purpose with this."

"You are relentless aren't you two? I am getting quite attached to this place however."

Thus, with the existence called Touma appearing on the front stage at last, their objective, the confirmation of Touma's existence has come to an end.

Since it had come to this, they had no need to collect information using this castle as a base.

In other words---it meant they have become able to move freely.

"If master Setsu is here then I can feel attached to any place, you know?"

"In other words, if there's no attachment because he's not here, then..."

“That is how it will be.”

It was Elka who declared so with a firm expression, but as a result of the contents of her words having substance, Glain turned exasperated and let out a sigh.

“If Setsu is here then anywhere is fun. That’s why, let us quickly go to Setsu’s side.”

“Tia, you are also nearly always like this... But I suppose I am of the same opinion on that point.”

The transfer magic circle began to shine.

It is on standby for invocation and it was a signal that it could immediately **fly**.

“For now we participate in the war, arrange the extermination targets for the human soldiers, discover a gap and recover miss Yuuhi. Don’t forget, okay?”

“I know. It would be nice if master Setsu is there...”

“No problem. Even if Setsu couldn’t come yet, I will go with the resolve to end it before he does.”

Glain forced a smile towards the reliability of the women’s camp.

It couldn’t be helped that he ended up wondering why despite being a man, he doesn’t have any dignity like this and that the women were strong.

“Now then... Mister Setsu must be depending on us as well, so... shall we go?”

Now, three strong people went towards the battlefield.

It was not that Setsu could use telepathy with them.

And yet, they had a long and close relationship and they are connected to him strong enough to understand what they desire from each other.

The military strength that can shake the world were all present in the demon continent.



“Fuuh... Setsu really hasn’t changed.”

“Have you finished making your appearance, oh lord of mine.”

“Yup, thanks for waiting, Kagerou. Everyone.”

Above the enormous cliff where large drops of rain were falling, were standing in a line seven men and women wearing black robes.

At the heart of them was Touma.

He had the same appearance as the thought body Setsu had seen some time ago.

“The beastman really was useless as expected... To embarrass master Touma...”

“Now now, calm down Luna. I don’t mind it after all”

“But!”

“You’re all useful to me, aren’t you?”

He asked and all of the black robes nodded deeply.

There were even people among them who showed a smile from being relied on.

They love Touma that strongly and have pledged their allegiance to him, to the point that they would die if they were told to die.

“Let’s see... Now, shall we go then... people who have been rejected by the world.”

Now, in accordance with Touma’s command, the six reapers were released in the battlefield below the cliff.

While displaying the fight for supremacy between the human and demon soldiers, the death agony of the demon soldiers began to reverberate.

Just about this time, the battlefield in which its balance had been maintained, finally began to show an inclination.

“Now! Trample them down for me please! My adorable toys!”

The laughter of the maddened Hero, reverberated through the battlefield.

On this day, rain was falling---



“So, so strong! Somebody stop her! Stop this girl!”

Why---am I here?

“You bastard! That skin and horn should be of a demon! Why are you attacking us!?”

“This brethren murderer is gyaa---”

Why---did I stab one of the same race?

“We can’t stop her! Surround her and kill---”

“Private first class!”

I pierce the crown of the noisy man.

I burn down those soldiers in my surroundings with magic, draw out the rapier continuously and stop his breathing.

“I- it’s a redhaired woman! A redhaired woman holding a Rapier! She has a scar on her shoulder! Bring her down with maximum priority! Don’t let her go right after her Majesty!”

“I, I can’t stop her! Gyaa!”

What---in the world am I doing?

My consciousness is blurry.

Whatever I was thinking about since a while ago, I can't bring it together.

Where is this place?

For whose and what sake am I fighting?

Why does my arm continue to thrust out my rapier?

Another person died.

Stop.

Help me.

Stop.

STOP, STOP, STOP, STOP.

STOPSTOPSTOPSTOPSTOPSTOPSTOPSTOPSTOP---!

Someone please---

“---STOP ME”

A redhaired demon woman suddenly started breaking into the battlefield.

Smearred with the blood of the same race, the girl whose whole body was completely dyed red loitered alone on the battlefield.

What was in her vicinity were corpses, corpses, corpses---

Loitering around with no expression, with a vacant expression, the girl shed red tears.

The blood on her body ran down from the rain and those tears vanished before long.

Or perhaps---what was flowing from those eyes of hers may not have been tears.

It's because she was changed so she could not harbor those emotions anymore.

Even so, she cried and screamed.

From her heart---from a deep, dark and confined place somewhere.

“She’s here! It’s that woman!”

“Brethren murderer bitch! Die here!”

“What’s that guy beside her!?”

Preys have turned up once again.

Her body moved naturally.

For the sake of those, to kill them.

Besides her were soldiers standing unnoticed.

Those bodies were twice the size of hers, soldiers who were wearing unrefined armor and numerous magic circles.

<Magic Soldiers>---It’s the name of the arms of war to be handed down in the world afterwards.

“---LET’S GO, RAMELL”

The girl muttered.

As if in agreement to that, the magic soldiers began moving.

Around the time the black robed reapers appeared, a different threat began moving at the corner of the battlefield---

Chapter 49

Disquieting movements

“...”

“What’s wrong?”

“Roa...”

One of the rooms of the world tree castle. We who have plans to go to the demon continent have been taking a rest for a while here until the arrangements of the transfer magic circle is prepared.

I think I’ve said it before that large amounts of magic power is necessary for a transfer magic circle.

Hence there’s the disadvantage that it’s useless at times of emergency.

Even if you leave it fully charged to remove the disadvantage, it’s not something you would accumulate in case it’s used by accident or abused.

The counter-measure they took against that is by replenishing it with a certain amount of magic power and so they can finish it with a quick charge at the time of use.

Even if beastmen don’t have much magic power which is typical to their race, it shouldn’t take more than a few hours after the battle with Ruga, so it should be completed soon...

“I’m also worried about Desas really... Whatever you say, she’s the demon king so yeah, won’t she be targeted more likely?”

“You have a point I guess...”

I don’t think she’ll be attacked so easily if it’s her, but depending on the movements of the black robed bunches, there is a possibility that she will instantly come to danger.

I won’t be able to deal with it if I still haven’t started moving though.

“Well... the five demon generals are also there and she herself is very strong. It should be fine for the next while.”

“I think so, but you know...”

“Besides, I’ll notice it if there’s danger approaching her life.”

“Aah, so you’ve given her that kind of thing too.”

Roa said and she stroked the black choker worn on her neck.

The choker and brooch I’ve given to Roa and Desas has an original magic inserted that I created from scratch. It reacts to the danger of the owner’s life and will in turn signal me.

Basically the kind of accessory I’ve given has this embedded to it and the fact that it isn’t responding at the moment means that everyone can be said to be safe.

On a side note, the people I’ve given those are Yuuhi, the three companions, Desastre, Ruri, Levia, Regulus, Roa... there are more people, but they have no reason to go somewhere like a battleground, so the ones I ought to be worrying about are the lots I named.

Ruri is a merchant so she won’t be fighting, but that doesn’t mean that she won’t be in danger, seeing that she’s living in Evil Barrow and the enemies will be marching there.

I’m worried about the others, but I’m worried about Yuuhi the most.

That girl’s kind hearted, so she may show sympathy towards her enemies even on the battlefield and may see something painful.

If Elka and the others are going towards the demon continent like I expect them to and protect her, then I can have quite a bit of peace of mind though---

“Merchant! Water please!”

“Ah, yes!”



Ruri, the very young merchant was frantically carrying the requested baggage, even while mud is stuck on her clothes that has become wet from the rain.

The girl wasn't fighting just like Setsu expected, but in this way she had been serving the demon army as the supply squad.

Ruri, an acquaintance to the demon king Desastre, was entrusted with the supply role by the demon king herself while being human and thus she had been running around the battleground.

She had favorably managed the stand with the deep fried food Setsu passed down to her and with the reason that the soldiers "are able to eat Setsu's cooking," they made it their favorite store and they've gotten on good terms with her.

She also has decent skills as a merchant and with the soldier's trust in her, her ability in taking action and her tact, Ruri being elected as the supply squad leader was, in a meaning, inevitable.

At first she came across other supply squad members who were dissatisfied with being pointed at by a human much younger than themselves, but due to her tact, accurate instructions and how hectic the battleground had been, they could no longer feel things like dissatisfaction---or perhaps, they don't even have the leisure to feel it.

"Squad leader! The medical squad is requesting clean clothes and tools for first aid treatment because there are too many casualties!"

"So it means they don't have enough recovery magic anymore then... if so then those are inside the tray of the carriage. As for clean clothes, clothes are put in a bag so it doesn't get wet by the rain. You could get others lend a hand, so please take some magic recovery potions to the medical squad. It's just in case, but I think it's better than nothing, so."

"I understand!"

After receiving her instructions, the young agile figured member dashed to the supply area. Ruri too ferried across the water casket she was holding to the knight who had come requesting it.

“Thank ye! Wait, it’s heavy!?! Missy, you’ve been carrying this!?”

“There’s a trick on how to carry this, you know! You’ll master it even if you dislike doing business on your own.”

“Really... ain’t that amazing. Oh right, thank you!”

“You’re welcome!”

The girl ran once again.

Behind the battleground, a lone merchant was supporting the battling soldiers.

“Ur... eugh”

“Mitsuki, are you okay?”

The human side’s stronghold, built on the demon continent.

It has become a place for medical treatment of injured soldiers and a rest area for those who were forced to retreat temporarily.

Among them were also the figures of the Heroes and each of them were looking unwell.

“So-Sorr... in front of people... I... ueh.”

“Don’t be unreasonable I tell ya... just throw up everything now.”

Having seen the many deceased in front of her eyes, Mitsuki had various emotions mixing in since a while ago. She was unable stop feeling nauseous and could not separate herself from the bucket of filth.

Nestling close to the girl who earnestly continued to throw up was Jirou who was similarly summoned as a Hero.

He too may have come to see various things on the battlefield, but he was comparatively in a better state of mind.

The mind of he who had been involved in combat sports like boxing and judo was quite

tough compared to those of the same generation.

“Hey! Pull yerself together!”

“Sorry Endou...”

“I, I don’t feel so good...”

Endou and those followers of his were quite defeated as well.

It was Endou who was rebuking the followers, but he himself looked unwell.

“*sigh* ... shit... why are we looking like this...”

“Endou-kun and the others, are you all right? I’m here with water.”

“Hanabashira-san!”

When he noticed that the person who had come pouring water was Yuuhi, Endou immediately stretched himself.

“Want some?”

“Ye, yes please!”

Endou took in his hand the cup Yuuhi was holding and drank it like he was greedy.

Just by receiving water from the opposite sex he yearned for and being treated kindly by her, he recovered his cheerful expression. Yuuhi who didn’t notice Endou’s health turning back felt relieved that he was at least looking well.

“Let me know if there’s anything, okay?”

Not being led to fight thanks to Kouma, Yuuhi had been working in the stronghold as the one in charge of odd jobs.

Endou looked reluctant to part with her, but because she still have things to do, she

immediately left the place with the rest of the water.

“Yuu... Aren’t you going to rest?”

“Kouma-kun...”

When she was about to carry water to the others, Kouma hindered her.

He was looking at Yuuhi like he was somewhat upset, but fatigue is showing on that face.

Kouma himself took down a considerable amount of people and so his mind was somewhat enduring it.

“But I hardly fought, you know? That’s why I have to do this---”

“Even so, you should rest! These chores aren’t something you should do Yuuhi!”

Because Kouma unintentionally let out a loud voice, everyone there looked his way.

“I will be protecting you. That’s why you can hide yourself behind me on the battlefield, and you don’t have to do these things either.”

“...”

The girls were bashful and the boys admired Kouma who said something a game character would say.

Yuuhi too couldn’t say anything.

Being deeply moved---was not the reason.

Great delight---was not why she couldn’t either.

It was because she helplessly became “disgusted” with him.

(These times... Yuki-kun would actually praise me)

Yuuhi have had numerous friends since long ago and due to that she had been involved with various people.

In that process, she had often helped people and had become idolized by even more people.

Whenever Yuuhi gives a hand to someone or saves someone, Setsu would praise her.

What he had there was an upfront respect for her.

Naturally there were also praises from those around her.

The girl called Hanabashira Yuuhi is a kind-hearted girl they say...

However, her heart, as a matter of fact, wasn't particularly kind.

She is simply just kind within bounds of common sense.

She is kind so she would help people---is not how it is.

Setsu had praised me when I saved someone... In the end, the girl called Hanabashira Yuuhi helps people and would work for people in order to have the man called Setsu praise her.

To praise is namely the part where he acknowledges her.

Because he loves Yuuhi, Setsu would acknowledge and support her actions.

Because he loves Yuuhi, Kouma would try to protect her without acknowledging those actions.

There lies a difference that can't possibly be shortened.

Yuuhi is anything but a weak woman.

The strength that seems to want to protect rather than be protected, that is what she possess.

Kouma who had become beyond overprotective is nothing more than a hindrance to Yuuhi.

“...”

“Where are you going!?”

“I’m going to breath in some fresh air... I’d like to be alone.”

“Oh, okay...”

Being put in an unexpected conspicuous bind and losing her mood to perform her chores, Yuuhi passed by Kouma and headed outside.

Jirou who had seen the whole scene called out to the surprised looking Kouma.

“...Aren’t ya a lil’ overprotective? Kouma.”

“I... don’t want Yuu to face any dangers”

“I understand that feeling of yours, but... She’s also strong, you know that? She ain’t be getting done in so easily I tell ya.”

“You can’t be sure of that, can you!?”

An angry voice once again resounded in the stronghold.

Finally, Jirou stood up and struck his fist towards the face of Kouma who didn’t think much about his surroundings.

“Gah...”

“Open your eyes... Look”

A small scream was raised from their surroundings.

Kouma rolled on the floor, became dumbfounded and couldn’t move, with an appearance saying he didn’t understand why he was hit.

Jirou grabbed his collar and raised him to connect their gazes.

“I understand your feeling of being worried about the girl you like and not wanting to

expose her to danger! But you know, is Yuu being safe good enough for you!? How about the others!? There are already people hurt, you know!? It's frustrating, but the strongest among us is you! Everyone is relying on you! Thinking of constantly worrying about Yuu and neglecting others!? I'm not gonna let ya!"

"Ugh..."

"Can Yuu not even fight... we should have included her and protected the others who are bad at fighting, don't you think..."

"..."

Kouma began to feel embarrassed and turned his face away from Jirou.

"...Sorry Jirou. I probably wasn't calm for a bit."

"...No probs. My bad for hitting ya."

Jirou stepped back from above Kouma and stuck out his hand.

Kouma took that hand to stand up and lowered his head to the surrounding classmates who had been looking worriedly.

"Sorry, I've made you anxious."

"I'm sorry about that."

When Jirou also apologized after Kouma, each of the classmates return to their rest, feeling relieved.

Especially Mitsuki who is close to the two; she noticed the stiff atmosphere during that time and now she stroke down her chest in relief.

"I'll go see Yuu."

"Heyhey wait, going now would be awkward don't ya think?"

"Ugh..."

“I’ll go for ya. And then apologize to her okay?”

“I got it... I’ll leave it to you.”

“Yeah.”

He actually knew the awkward part? Kouma decided to leave it to Jirou.

He sat on the chair and waited for the two to return.

However---however long he waited, the two didn’t come back.

“*sigh* ...”

A little moments before.

Having slipped out of the stronghold, Yuuhi covered herself in a raincoat so as to not get wet from the rain and walked outside.

The air that smells of gunpowder and rain is somewhat intense, but it appeared to be very much better than the air submerging the inside of the stronghold.

(Kouma-kun... Is kind of getting a little in the way.)

She understands his feeling of worrying over her, but that was overdoing it in every way.

Yuuhi, who wanted to quickly try and meet a demon who knows Setsu and visit the other side, couldn’t stand it with Kouma’s existence being a hindrance.

“I wish I could just up and leave like this...”

She muttered as she kicked the stones under her feet and immediately abandoned the thought.

There were too many people surrounding the stronghold.

Her leaving on her own will absolutely be seen like this.

Yuuhi and the others were forbidden to take independent actions, so if their figures are seen leaving on their own then they may be brought back.

“*sigh*... I guess I should go back now---”

“La-lady Hero!”

The moment she felt calm and tried going back inside the stronghold, she was stopped by the voice of a knight running from the other side.

He looked like he was excessively impatient, it made her feel it wasn't just a trivial matter.

“What is wrong?”

“That, that is... the five demon generals have appeared and... right now I am going to request support from the Heroes.”

“!”

The five demon generals, that name was also told to Yuuhi.

Ability of at the very least SS rank and above, they are five subordinates under direct control of the demon king.

Strong people where troops of ordinary soldiers will never be enough for has finally revealed their figures on the battlefield.

“I alone have confirmed it, however... our current situation is that our forces are annihilated and...”

“And which way is it?”

“It is that way---pya-!”

Suddenly, Yuuhi took hold of the soldier's neck and the soldier lost his consciousness.

“Thank you very much.”

After supporting the unconscious soldier and leaving him on the ground, she shook her arm that was coiled with crackling electricity to erase that electricity.

To Yuuhi who can use magic of various attributes, this much was a child's play.

Since it looked like the soldier suddenly collapsed, the nearby soldiers who were keeping watch rushed towards them.

“What happened to him!?”

“It looks like he somehow accumulated fatigue, please carry him.”

“Yes ma'am!”

When Yuuhi saw off the two soldiers carrying him, Yuuhi started running in the direction where the five demon generals appeared.

(The five demon generals... I'm sure those people would---)

The look-out had thinned out and as a result, Yuuhi vanished into the forest without being called to stop by anyone.

“---That girl... where does she think she's going?”

Except one. Jirou who went out shortly after her, discovered her retreating figure and similarly entered the forest.

Chapter 50

Now, onto the battlefield

“<Shadow Lance>!”

“Gyaa!”

The black spears unleashed by the black robe wearing man, Kagerou pierced through the demon soldiers.

The soldiers had surrounded him, but he escaped before they could begin their offensive with a magic that let him go into shadows.

“Do- do something about him!”

“He, he’s too strong!”

“Uwaah!”

Kagerou surveyed his surroundings uninterestedly after mowing down the soldiers with a gigantic fist.

“Even though we released our main forces, are the demons still thinking of holding back?”

He could not find any satisfaction in his mind with the groups he could kill in his spare time.

He was about to swing his shadow fist again, but at that time---

“<Flame Lance>!”

“W-!”

Kagerou reflexively jumped to the side.

The place he had been standing at all this time was pierced by a flame lance and in no time another flame lance flew towards the place he escaped towards.

“Twin magic!?”

He separated that place by rolling in panic and soon the lance pierced the ground beside him.

Perhaps he was grazed; the edges of his robe was burnt but there was no damage.

“Fuh, a tough looking person has shown up!”

“You don’t have time to rest, you know!”

“Tch!”

Realizing the bloodlust behind him, Kagerou leaped forward.

“<Destructive Fist (Haken) >!”

Together with a thunderous roar, the ground shook.

Kagerou who had his feet on the ground was distracted by the shaking and had gotten himself in a difficult situation where he had to cancel his previous magic

“I knew ordinary methods won’t do.”

“It will be better than it being unsatisfying.”

“You bastards... so you have finally appeared.”

Who showed their figures were a petite girl and a man of large build.

Those two were close aides of the demon king who have previously confronted

Kagerou---

“One of the five demon generals, Lily Lavent. We meet again.”

“One of the five demon generals, Ides Armicks... Here I go, black robe.”

“It’s not black robe, my name is Kagerou... Two demon generals, no shortage in opponents there!”

Kagerou took off his black robe and revealed his appearance.

He possessed black hair and on that well ordered face was a large scar.

“Heh!? Isn’t he quite the hot guy!?”

Lily kneaded her magic power and Ides readied his fists.

Kagerou took out and readied the sword concealed behind his back.

The powerful tops, prided by both their armies, collided here at that time.

“Hmph!”

A magic fired by Brad, one of the five demon generals, burned a human soldier.

“You can’t take me down with mere toys!”

“Gi... ih...”

He jumped over a blow from the magic soldiers approaching from behind and landed on that shoulder.

He plunged the red knife in his hand into the base of the magic soldier’s throat where the armor is thin and that soldier fell on its knees after convulsing.

(So appearance-wise it’s a puppet, but the fact blood comes out means it’s a living

thing?)

When he pulled the knife out, blood spurted from the base of its throat.

The magic soldiers who rushed on as soon as they had come to the battlefield, had the strength of several ordinary soldiers.

They were no significant foes to Brad of the five demon generals, however they must have become quite the amazement on its own way, thanks to them being in numbers.

“So first I should take down the puppets.”

Brad cut up his palm and the blood overflowing from there emerged and floated on top of his hand.

“<Bloody Bullets>”

The suspended blood divided itself and was fired towards the magic soldiers as if they were bullets.

The spheres of blood that had hit penetrated the armor and pulverized the head which is the control tower of the body.

The magic soldiers whose functioning ceased crumbled down and the human soldiers who had seen that regretted underestimating the existence of the five demon generals.

“The magic soldiers were easily... ugh!”

“Te- temporary withdrawal!”

“You think I’ll let you get away?”

When Brad readied his red knife, the blood flowing out of his palm coiled around that knife.

“<Bloody Saber>”

The gathered blood was stretched thinly by his magic power, transforming the knife blade to unimaginable length.

He swung that thin and long firm blade with all his strength and the human soldiers were easily bisected.

And then---after sucking up the blood of those soldiers and stretching even more, the knife reaped the other soldiers' lives by the roots.

"Did I get them all... No"

Brad turned around.

There was a raincoat wearing young girl whose looks were not often seen.

(...She's strong)

Brad judged with a glance.

That she had a level of strength similar to his.

He had a premonition that he wouldn't lose, but even he would bear seriously injuries.

"You bastard... who are you?"

Brad asked and the young girl began approaching him.

There was no hostility in her approach and while some wariness was remaining, Brad allowed her to approach him.

"I am Hanabashira Yuuhi. I don't have any intentions to fight, okay? I only want to talk a little."

"Hum..."

There were no signs of her lying.

With this occasion, Brad judged she was one of the summoned Heroes of another world.

The fact that it was an unusual name in this world, the fact she had unusual looks and the fact that she looked still green despite possessing mighty strength. There should be no doubt that she is a Hero.

“It depends on what you will talk about. With that I---”

“Setsu... Do you know of a boy with that name?”

“Gh!... Fine then, we change our locations for a while.”

“Okay.”

This time, Yuuhi made a fist pump in her mind.

She had heard it from Elka that the five demon generals knew about Setsu, but it was a gamble whether they would accept a conversation with her just by revealing that name.

Yuuhi seems to have broken through the first hurdle, so she felt relieved.

“Then, let’s go---”

“Yuu!”

The instant Yuuhi was about to walk away with Brad, a voice she knew of called out to her from the back.

There was Jirou standing with a look of shock.

“An acquaintance of yours?”

“...”

“Yuu! Why are you together with a person like that!?”

Jirou walked up to them.

Yuuhi, who had a troubled look for an instant, instantaneously erased that look and---

“Noope, don’t know him.”



---released an orange blaze towards Jirou.

“Ugh! Aaaaagh!”

“Oh...”

With his body covered in flames, Jirou struggled and rolled over on the spot.

The blaze weakened by the rain and the wet ground, but Yuuhi’s flames weren’t so weak as to vanish from that.

“Let’s go.”

Yuuhi immediately turned her eyes from Jirou, turned her back and walked away.

“Isn’t he your comrade? Is this fine?”

“I don’t know that sort of person, you know. And even if I do... he’s just a nuisance right now.”

“...”

Brad was surprised.

He immediately understood that this man and she were friends.

What was surprising was that he couldn’t sense any sort of intentions in Yuuhi’s eyes.

“...Hmph, such an eerie woman.”

“Don’t be so rude to mee...”

The two walked, heading towards the demon’s military camp.

Hanabashira Yuuhi’s treachery was conveyed by Jirou; he was rescued by soldiers who happened to pass by him and although he had received **light** burns on his whole body,

he received medical treatment and had hung onto his life.



“---is our current status!”

“I understand, you may stand down.”

“Yes ma’am!”

Sitting on the throne of the demon castle, Desastre let the soldier who had come to report the progress of battle stand down and deeply pondered with her arms crossed.

It became a very wonderful scene where her large breasts were highlighted by her crossed arms, but fortunately only two women including her were in that room, so there were none who could desire this.

“Strong demons serving as soldiers, puppet soldiers that could not even be taken down with three soldiers and then the black robed men... is it. So although they still have not entered Evil Barrow, coming this far will be a matter of time.”

“The situation isn’t good, is it?”

“*sigh* ... It is as you have said, Levia.”

Standing next to Desastre, whose hardships didn’t die out due to her position as king, Levia produced water and gave some to her.

“My gratitude for your troubles...”

“A king’s position is also terrible.”

“Fufu... well, it does not look like my worries are petering out.”

王の立場も大変ね

ふふ……

まあ心配事は絶えないな

魔王
デザストル。
セレーノ



Desastre laughed in a self-deprecating sense.

The wars in this world was strongly like Japan's Warring States period; the army who defeats the king becomes the victor.

Desastre whose life was targeted by all soldiers will wear away her mind, no matter how much she is a king of demons.

"The awareness of my responsibility that it will be our defeat if I am defeated, while taking considerations about the safety of my comrades; am I truly someone who would be defeated with just that?" Desastre cursed at her own inexperience.

"The number of those black robes don't match with the number of fighting power who could oppose those people... If all five demon generals are at least present... Uugh! What are those two doing!? It's not like they have lost their lives I suppose..."

The beastmen-demons allied forces had headed towards the human continent a long while ago in order to attack them.

Among them were the remaining two of the five demon generals.

However they have come to understand from the fact the humans were attacking the demon continent like this that the allied forces were annihilated in an instant.

She should have accumulated a considerable fighting power and kept it in check so that the human army could not come out of their continent, but she didn't believe from the beginning that they would be crushed so swiftly.

However that seems to be the truth; proof is that none of the remaining soldiers have returned.

Those two didn't appear to be safe either.

"But the fact they didn't return means they're dead aren't they, I wonder?"

"No... they will be the last to die. They err... they have their moments when they act a little selfish, but I am certain of their abilities. I am almost certain that they have escaped unhurt."

There may have been circumstances where they could not return---continued

Desastre, but if that is the case then they should somehow get in touch with us, Levia thought instead.

It would be a different story if their circumstances didn't even allow for that...

"If only they are here we could turn it around... kuh, I suppose they should be hiding, considering the inevitable."

"How should I say this... quite the unique people are they."

"They are also troublemakers you see... the 'I'm begging you, I only wish you not to bring poor results' sort of people."

Levia once again handed over some water in silence to the crestfallen Desastre who hung her head.

"If we endure it a bit longer, then Setsu and his party should come. Once that happens we will turn the tide of battle upside down."

"Yes..."

With the name Setsu, vitality returned to Desastre's eyes.

To the current Desastre, no, the entirety of the demons, Setsu was their hope.

In actuality, if only he arrives, then they could call this battle their victory.

That is why we hold out for now. It won't even be a laughing matter if we end up defeated at the time he comes."

"That's how it is. Not to mention if we were to lose---"

Desastre stopped speaking.

It's because she noticed Levia exposing her anger, clenching her teeth enough to make sound next to her.

"I will not let them... the black robed group do as they like. I will absolutely slaughter

them all.”

“..”

Desastre too felt the same.

If the girls were defeated... then they would be utilised by them.

They absolutely had to avoid that from happening.

The reason why was---

“We can not let them cause it...! Something like the <Demise> that is...!”

---because this world, would come to an end.



“Setsu, preparation of the transfer magic circle is done.”

“Great. Thanks Regulus.”

“Don’t worry about it. I won’t accept the fact that a country we are bound by alliance are in a crisis either. After this I will also dispatch soldiers from here as reinforcements, though it will be by boat.”

“Really. Then I’ll rely on them on the cleaning up, because I’m going to end it before those guys are there.”

“Isn’t that quite the thing to say.”

While having a frivolous talk with Regulus, I wake up the cat sisters who were thoroughly sleeping like a log.

Roa who had been relaxing her body in a corner also noticed us and came this way fit for battle.

“Listen, we’re going! You sleepy heads!”

“Eh... ah! Yes, yes Sir!”

I'm still sleepy desu..."

I produce a water ball and throw it at Shironeko who looks still half asleep unlike Mineko who immediately began preparing her appearance.

"You awake?"

"Perfectly desu"

Shironeko scowled at me with half open eyes, but the one who is in the wrong is the shameless you.

While she who got wet by water is drying her clothes in her spare time, we head towards the transfer magic circle.

"You all, you're ready this?"

"Yeah"

"I'm going out now, daddy."

"Don't do anything excessive, you hear me?"

"I know, I know."

Each of us are properly checking our equipments.

The outfit of the cat sisters didn't change from the usual.

They were adventurer-like clothes that resembles mine.

Roa is wearing an outfit with little cloth area as if to make the most of her ability to move.

Some time ago she wore and randomly invited me in this equipment, so I made her faint in agony with a poke in the forehead.

Sure it's sexy but still cute, but it's somehow different being shown suggestively.

I knew it, it's the shyness you know, shyness.

In contrast to the equipment of the three, I'm carrying Kuromaru on my back and it indeed has the feeling of a heavy equipment.

I feel anxious about it since it looks like the tip would scrape the ground with my height, even if I carry it diagonally.

"...How about you put that in your magic bag?"

"Roa, you don't get it do you? This way will feel more like a battle don't you think?"

"Is that, is that so?"

Shironeko and Mineko, don't look at me with questioning looks.

Carrying a large sword on his back is a man's romance you know?

...In any case, with this the preparations of all of us are in good order.

"Alright---Now, let's go you girls."

The transfer light wrapped us up who are standing on the magic circle in the middle of the room.

With this, we plunged into a battlefield large enough to remain in history.

Here... in this war, I myself will decide to tear off the shackles called my creed.



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